

A MAGAZINE
FOR LESBIAN/GAY
LIBERATION

THE BODY DOME

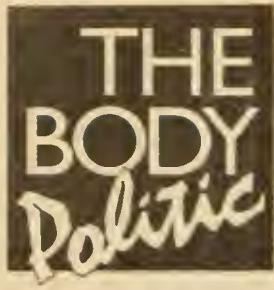
N° 130 • SEPT 1986 • \$2.50

NOVA
SCOTIA
GAYS VS
GIFFIN
NEW
ZEALAND
TRIUMPH

OUR
UNSEEN
CENSORS

WHO
DECIDES
WHAT
YOU CAN
READ?

PLUS: FALL FICTION FUN BY JOHN
ALLEC, ALBERT RUSSO & GUY BABINEAU;
CLASSIFIEDS: SEX & ROMANCE



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• Kurt Hiller, 1921

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Membership in the collective indicates general agreement with the political goals and editorial direction of The Body Politic but not necessarily agreement with all policies the collective enacts.

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Gary Farr, Toronto

CORRECTION

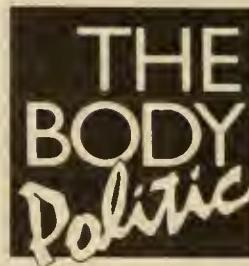
The Body Politic regrets that an error appeared in the above message when it was placed in our previous issue. We apologize to Mr. Farr for the unintentional change in meaning. Above is the corrected version.

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Coming
IN THIS
ISSUE

Number 130
September 1986

9 Too many rights?

When it comes to the Charter of Rights and especially when it comes to hiring gays as police officers, Nova Scotia Tories think any rights are far too many.

11 Too many censors

The Joy of Gay Sex is banned and it's no wonder. Up to five — yes, five! — groups of censors get to inspect and trim your imported books and magazines before you ever see them.

17 Cause for celebration

After 16 long months of debate and Sally-Ann homophobia, New Zealand lesbians and gay men can finally start the celebration.

23 Full of surprises

John Allec's trip to the Passion Planet starts off this month's exciting fiction section.

31 Surrounded by the ocean —

Chris Bearchell talks to publisher Libby Oughton about PEI's Ragweed Press and their latest publication, Christine Donaldson's *The Fat Woman Measures Up*.

43 Coming to terms

Overcoming the All in the Family syndrome. The Back Page by Corrie Campbell.

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The cover: Design by Robyn Lake. Illustration by Michael Leonard from *The Joy of Gay Sex*.

Our Error In the August issue of TBP two important credits were omitted. The feature article Coming Out — On the Job was written by Jeff Winkelaar for *The Body Politic*. The Back Page illustrations were done by artist, Renata Janiszewski. Our apologies to both these contributors.

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Our inherent rights

Gays in both the United States and Canada have fresh cause to wonder if constitutional rights are worth the paper they are written on. Hard on the heels of a landmark defeat for gay rights in the US Supreme Court, the much touted (and yet to be confirmed) protection of gay rights in Canada's new constitution has been threatened. The threat comes from one of the very officials charged with enforcing those rights. Nova Scotia attorney-general Ron Giffin has said he would invoke Section 33 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms — the opting-out provision — to prevent lesbians and gay men from serving as police officers in his province.

No one who has carefully read the Charter of Rights and Freedoms should be surprised by this development. The inclusion of the opting-out formula was part of the price exacted by the (English-speaking) provinces for their signatures on the constitution. Many, like Nova Scotia's Conservative government, have been hostile to the spirit of the Charter from the time of its drafting. The wish to avoid a just reckoning with native people and women was prominent among the concerns of provincial politicians. But, as is often the case, gays have been the first and easiest target for those who would undermine the rights of all.

Was Giffin's statement a mere ill-considered outburst or was it a test of the public reflexes, in preparation for a broader assault on the Charter? In either case, it appears that Giffin badly miscalculated. Public figures and the media in Nova Scotia achieved a remarkable degree of unanimity in condemning Giffin's remarks. In the last two weeks of July, the normally moribund letters page of the Halifax Herald carried 14 letters on the issue, running four to three against the attorney-general. Among them was one from Conservative MP Howard Crosby, who has publicly suggested that Giffin should step down as attorney-general.

In the clamour of public outrage, the voices of Premier Buchanan and of the official opposition have been conspicuously absent. The premier waited eight days to respond to the issue, and then did so weakly. Correctly reading the prevailing political winds, he distanced himself from Giffin's comments, saying they did not represent government policy. He has not, however, censured Giffin or exacted a retraction. By characterizing the affair as a "non-issue," Premier Buchanan has refused to deal seriously with the threatened erosion of the Charter.

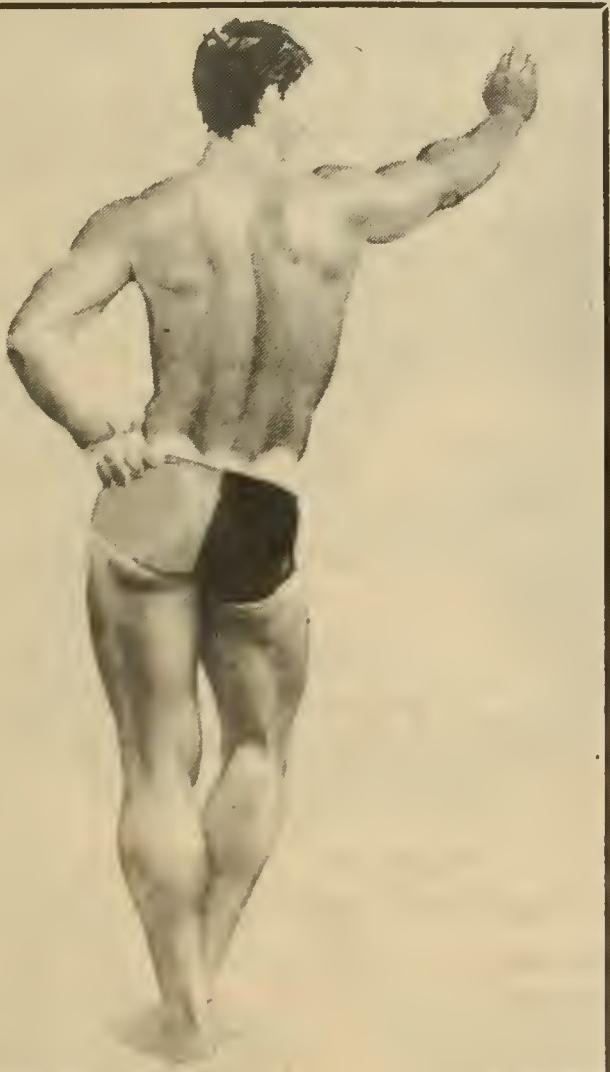
Members of the Liberal opposition, with the exception of MLA Guy Brown, were sluggish in their response. Only the NDP caucus, which has recently introduced legislation to add "sexual orientation" to the provincial human rights code, has been prompt and consistent in its criticism of Giffin.

The three demands put forward at a public meeting by the gay community of Halifax must be addressed. The premier must make a clear statement of his government's policy, including a commitment not to opt out of the Charter. Ron Giffin must resign as attorney-general, because we have no confidence in his willingness to protect minority rights. Finally, the provincial government must enact legislation to add "sexual orientation" to the human rights code.

The time has never been better in Nova Scotia to build bridges with other oppressed communities. Out of a recognition that a threat to one group is a threat to all, an ad hoc committee has been formed, representing gays and lesbians, women, organized labour, the disabled, blacks, natives, other visible minorities and concerned citizens. Its mandate goes beyond the immediate crisis, and the defence of a flawed Charter, toward the establishment of a permanent broad-based coalition for the collective defence of our rights and freedoms. The committee deserves the whole-hearted support of the gay and lesbian community.

The protections offered by the Charter may be more illusion than substance. It would be a grave mistake to believe that our rights are, or ever could be, secured by any legal document — even a constitution. However, as one gay man said at that public meeting in Halifax: "Our rights are *inherently* ours, whether the government agrees or not." Whatever the intent of governments or the legal effect of the Charter, its enactment has been read by Canadians as a signal that discrimination, including anti-gay discrimination, is not tolerable in our society. Canadian politicians may wish to call the genie back into the bottle. The idea of freedom, however, has a force of its own, more powerful than governments and constitutions.

Robin Metcalfe, for the collective •

**CHAPS**

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LETTERS

Aid for AIDS

To Rob Joyce's suggestion of "cash sharing" with persons with AIDS in your July issue.

Before Mr Joyce's letter appeared, a friend of mine was strongly rebuffed when he offered cash to a couple with AIDS/ARC. There is something about cash that makes it difficult to see it as giving rather than paying. Offense is easily taken.

I would suggest contributions to social service organizations or the deacon's fund at a MCC or other church with a ministry to gay people. These organizations know many people in need, perhaps some in worse straits than your acquaintances and friends.

Of course, if the rent is overdue, perhaps cash is a necessity. Otherwise Mr Joyce's suggestion of a "restaurant meal" might be wiser. People with AIDS need social activity, but they sometimes are apprehensive of being in public. A meal in your home or prepared in your home, food for the pantry that is nutritious and not spicy, clothes (if they have lost weight and changed sizes), just a visit will be helpful.

Sometimes money is not the answer at all. I knew a couple who had run out of money for doctors and prescriptions. But I also knew they were unwilling to apply for US Social Security to which they were entitled and which would provide them a long-term solution to medical expenses. They were finally jolted into applying by the combination of lack of funds and the funeral of a friend.

Mr Joyce asserts that Canadian payments are less than living expenses. Perhaps political action is warranted.

*Mark Smith
Fort Worth, Texas*

Sinister initiative

It was with great interest that I read your article on the LaRouche initiative (a California proposal to quarantine people with AIDS — *Editor*). These well-financed fantasies are not to be taken lightly. Using a sneaky underhanded approach to obtain signatures, they essentially asked people to sign a petition that they claimed would stop AIDS. Naturally, everyone wants to stop AIDS (read finding a vaccine or cure) and thousands unwittingly signed it.

Aside from concerted, well-organized efforts on the part of the gay community to defeat this horrifying initiative, we also have some hope if we examine how the process works. Historically, since 1912, only about 29 percent of legislative initiatives have been approved. We can also hope that many of the signatures will not be of registered voters. I called the Registrar of Voters here and discovered they need 393,835 *verified* signatures in order for it to appear on the November general election ballot. The Registrar informed me that, as a rule, only about 25 percent of the signatures appearing on initiative petition lists are bona fide registered voters. Hope springs eternal.

The hysteria the LaRouche camp has generated is not a concern for public health but merely homophobia in a new disguise. Certain elements of straight society have longed for many years for a "legitimate" reason to persecute gay people. The AIDS health crisis has given them made-to-order

ammunition for their campaigns of hatred. Now, instead of helping AIDS victims when they need care and financial assistance the most, these "do-gooders" are bent on establishing "facilities" for our incarceration. The United States is not a poor country. The cure and development of a vaccine lies in increased research funding which Congress continues to drag its feet in approving. I feel the reason more money is not available is owing to the fact that enough heterosexual people have not died from the disease. I'm sure there are those who consider it a welcome form of genocide for an especially loathed minority.

Last year my best friend died of AIDS on September 10. On February 3 of this year my roommate learned he has AIDS and I am slowly watching him die. That is why I shall devote my time and energy to defeating this sinister initiative because I will not ever again return to the closet and watch AIDS victims herded off to "facilities" we all know will evolve into concentration camps.

*Joseph D Lamping Jr
Hollywood, CA*

Magazines offended

In your article on British gay magazines (TBP, April), your writer, one Alan O'Connor, chooses to mention a bizarre selection of publications. Not a word was devoted to the five largest circulation British gay news mags — all of which have considerable claim to being the natural successors to the late-lamented Gay News.

Any serious look at the literature available to gays in Britain cannot get away with omitting the names Gay Times, Out!, Capital Gay, Gay Scotland and our own publication, Gay Life, and still expect to be taken seriously.

What was apparent was that Mr O'Connor had not ventured out of the more esoteric enclaves of North London for his reading matter. Gay Scotland and Gay Life (formerly Mancunian Gay) have an impressive record of radical regional journalism to boast — and neither of them could possibly be compared to the Daily Mirror!

Your readers will realize, we hope (even if Mr O'Connor does not), that gay life does not end at the point at which the M1 Motorway leaves London.

*Andrew Lowrey, Christopher Stocks
Gay Life Magazine, Manchester, England*

Letter made my day

Could you please pass my thanks and my home address on to Brent Dulitz, from New Orleans, whose letter to the editor appeared in your July issue under the heading "God-damn shame." Brent was correct, his letter did make my day and I would like the chance to tell him so in person.

*Kevin Brown
Person with AIDS, Vancouver*

CARBON COPIES

*Hon Ray Hnatyshyn
Minister of Justice, Ottawa*

At its 10th Annual General Meeting, held in Vancouver June 20 to 22, the Periodical Writers Association of Canada passed the following resolutions:

Whereas the federal government's proposed legislation to deal with pornography is a significant threat to freedom of expression, as guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, therefore PWAC calls upon the federal

URGENT!

Looking for very dear friend. If anyone knows the whereabouts of

ED ROBINS

(formerly of Niagara Falls), or if he sees this, please call Jean Chadwick, (416) 783-0787. He worked when younger at The Bank of Nova Scotia on the Danforth. It is very urgent to get in touch.

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WE'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE 1973...

The Homosexual Minority and the Ontario Human Rights Code

A brief by members of the Ontario Gay Rights Coalition

Discrimination and the Gay Minority

COALITION FOR GAY RIGHTS IN ONTARIO



1973

1978

1981



1986

...BUT LESBIANS AND GAY MEN IN ONTARIO STILL FACE SERIOUS DISCRIMINATION.

Since 1972, gay citizens have been lobbying Queen's Park to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code to give equal protection from discrimination on the grounds of "sexual orientation".

In 1975 the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario (CGRO) was formed to represent the interests of lesbians and gay men across Ontario. In addition to our rallies, meetings with politicians, grass roots organizing and public education, CGRO has produced two major briefs documenting anti-gay discrimination in Ontario.

These publications have been a cornerstone of our lobbying efforts. They have also served as important educational documents for politicians, the media, and the general public.

CGRO is now preparing a major new brief for publication in 1986. Once again, we want this to be a strong educational and lobbying tool. But we must raise \$5000 to cover the costs of production.



Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario
Coalition pour les droits des personnes gaies en Ontario

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LETTERS

government to withdraw its proposed legislation to deal with pornography.

As a matter of fundamental principle, PWAC promotes freedom of expression and communication, and unequivocally opposes censorship.

PWAC represents 340 of Canada's leading professional freelance periodical writers. As writers, we view with concern any attempt to restrict the free exchange of ideas. Your government's proposed anti-pornography legislation, Bill C-114, would have very dangerous consequences for freedom of expression.

The proposed legislation applies principally to visual rather than written material. As periodical writers, however, we frequently see our words published in magazines which rely strongly on visual material, in which words and images are interdependent. As well, section 162.1, which can be applied to "any thing," presumably covers written material, and is thus of particular concern to us. The extraordinary broadness of Bill C-114 threatens to create a repressive climate which would have serious consequences for all forms of expression.

Existing obscenity legislation has a chilling effect extending far beyond its enforcement through the criminal justice system. Extensive "advisory censorship" is practised in Canada. Bookstores are warned to remove materials which the police consider offensive, but which have not been ruled obscene by any court of law. Publishers and distributors are encouraged, by bodies such as the Prohibited Importations Unit of Revenue Canada, to self-censor rather than run the risk of prosecution. Such extra-legal censorship is not subject to appeal or scrutiny by the public which suffers its consequences. There is no reason to believe such practices would not continue under the proposed legislation.

Obscenity legislation in Canada, historically, has been applied in a discriminatory manner against feminists, lesbians and gay men, and sexual minorities, preventing these groups from communicating with one another and participating in public debate. There is no reason to believe the proposed legislation would be applied any differently.

It is our belief that Bill C-114 violates section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees "freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication." On behalf of the Freedom of Expression Committee and the membership of PWAC, I urge you to withdraw Bill C-114.

*Robin Metcalfe
National Chairperson
PWAC Freedom of Expression Committee
Halifax*

Editor

The London Free Press

I am writing to express my deep concern over the article in the July 16 edition of The London Free Press entitled "London East MP named to anti-porn committee." The federal committee to which MP Jim Jepson has been named has been established to study proposed changes to the Criminal Code aimed at curbing pornographic material.

The word "study," as I understand it, refers to the application of the mind to gain knowledge. Comments attributed to Mr Jepson in the article make it clear that he is not of a mind to gain knowledge on this issue. In referring to pornogra-

phy and sexually explicit material he indicates that he has already decided it encourages violent behaviour, is demeaning to both men and women, has no redeeming value, and he goes on to say that part of his belief is in opposition to any material depicting homosexuality, even in the context of a relationship between two caring and consenting adults.

The issues of pornography and censorship are closely linked. Perhaps there is harm that comes from pornography, I do not pretend to know, but if there is, it pales in comparison to the harm that history has taught us can come from censorship. It is a major tool of tyrannies. I respect Mr Jepson's right to have his opinions, and to express them. That right is a basic component of freedom. I do not respect his hope to deny that right to others.

When the campaign against porn escalated in recent years, the focus was primarily against violence and degradation, especially toward women. Already that has expanded to any sexually explicit material, even used in a therapeutic context, and, if Mr Jepson has his way, anything to do with homosexuality.

We homosexuals, as "experienced political lobbyists" have been very successful. We are no longer burned at the stake, nor are we even thrown in prisons or psychiatric hospitals simply because of our sexual orientation. The Canadian government, apparently in opposition to Mr Jepson, has even come to the point of stating a policy that it "will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination in relation to all areas of federal jurisdiction." Mind you, our "experienced political lobbying" failed to guarantee us the same protection of civil and human rights supposedly granted every responsible Canadian citizen.

The gains gays and lesbians have made in our attempts to reduce the terrible stigma attached to us by society have been through our efforts to inform and educate the public. It has been said that ignorance parents fear and fear parents hate. Is it Mr Jepson's goal to reverse those efforts?

If your heterosexual readers have some difficulty understanding the pain I feel on reading the article in question, I would ask them to try to imagine how they would feel if the line in the article read "Part of Mr Jepson's belief is his opposition to any material depicting heterosexuality, even in the context of a relationship between two caring and consenting adults." What is to stop that from being the next step?

I hope that the government of Canada, in its wisdom, will take steps to ensure that the Committee studying proposed changes to the Criminal Code will do so in a sincere and objective manner. Otherwise, maybe I will end up in prison for writing this letter, and the London Free Press may be closed down for printing it, and who knows what may happen to those caught reading and discussing it.

*Richard L Hudler, President
Homophile Association of London Ontario*

*The Body Politic welcomes your letters.
Send them to us at: Letters, TBP, Box 7289, Stn A, Toronto ON M5W 1X9.
Letters selected for publication may be edited for length.*

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Nova Scotia Tories would like to demolish the Charter of Rights and their attorney-general thinks gay cops will provide the necessary explosion

Carried away with rights

More than a month has passed since the attorney-general of Nova Scotia assured police chiefs that he would resist any federal legislation that would force him to hire gays as police officers. But the uproar his statements caused won't be quieted, as much as the Conservative government pretends it doesn't hear.

Ron Giffin, an eight-year veteran of the Nova Scotia Tory government, told a meeting of Atlantic Region Chiefs of Police that gays create morale problems in police forces and that he is "upholding the fundamental moral values of our society" by insisting they not be hired as police in this province.

"I would be completely opposed to any legislation or other enactment to compel the admission of homosexuals to any municipal police force in the province," Giffin told the July 9 meeting. At home for the meeting in his riding of Truro-Bible Hill, he speculated aloud to his audience, "I honestly wonder if we aren't being carried away with individual rights."

Giffin threatened to use the opt-out clause of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, if he had to, to ensure no gay cop would be hired in Nova Scotia. "If the courts were to rule under the Charter of Rights that we are compelled to do this, I would be prepared to go to the next step, which would be to introduce legislation to prevent that and, if necessary, to exempt that legislation from the operation of the Charter of Rights," under section 33 of the Charter, he said.

Those statements, and others Giffin made for weeks following the initial speech to defend his stance, caused a flurry of protest and generated calls for the attorney-general's resignation.

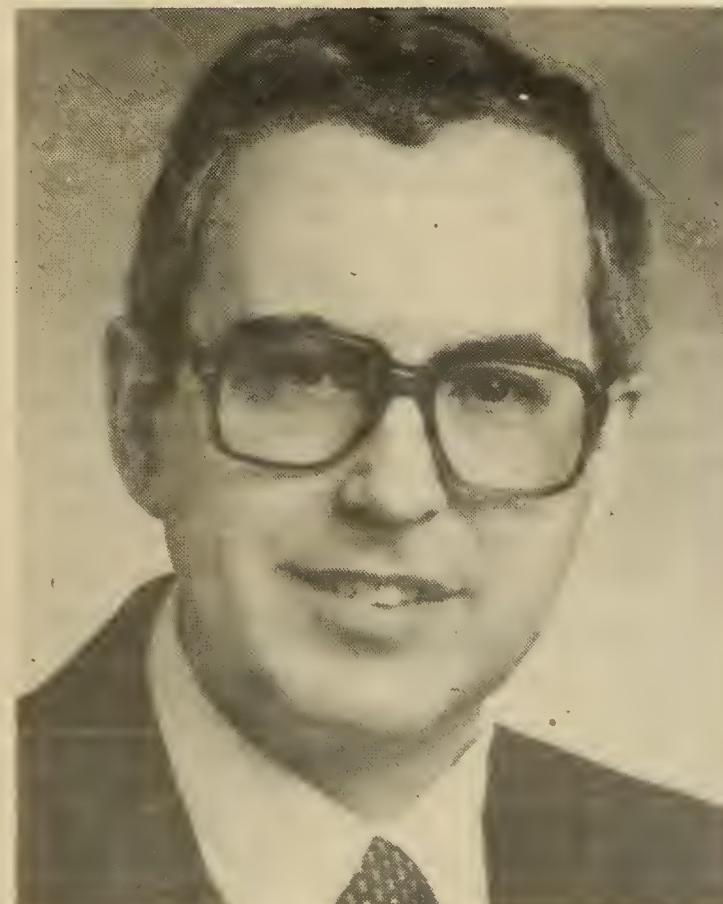
Giffin said the reaction to his speech was predictable, something that he expected. "I've been in politics 8 years now, and I'm not surprised when people react the way they do," he said.

"All I can tell you is that the police have expressed concern in no uncertain manner and, quite frankly, no one appears to have paid the slightest attention to them. They are talking with experience, about a policy that's been in the police force for generations. They're not opposing gays, but asking for an exemption, because they are a special case," he said.

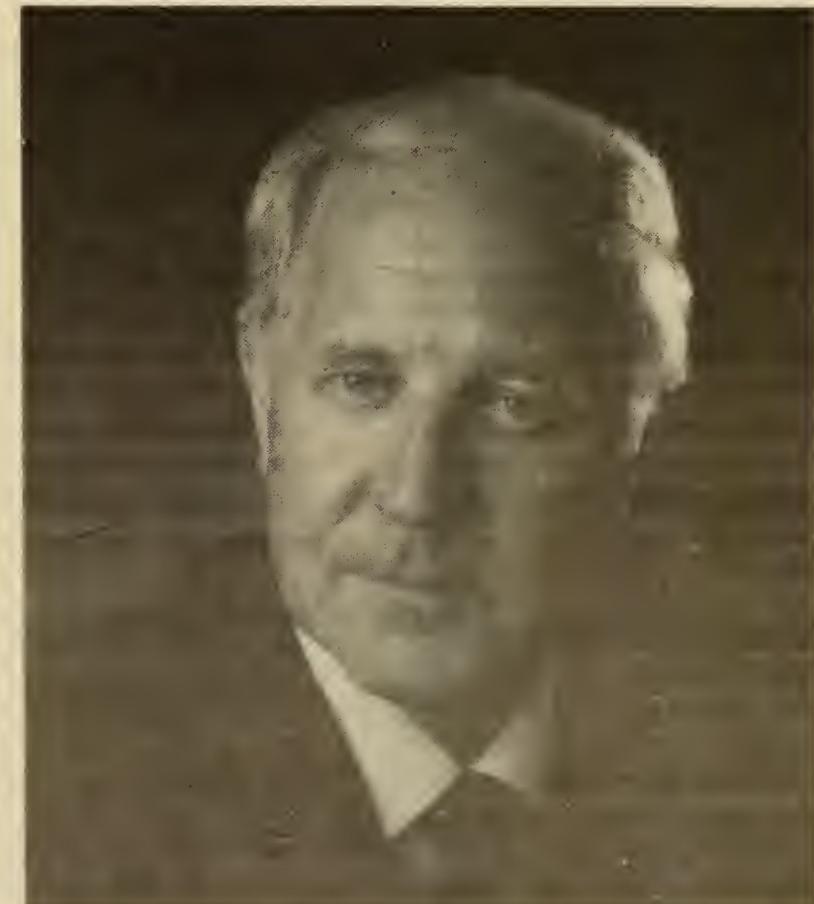
Giffin said he is just trying to be realistic. "I have no problem in the world with the situation they have in San Francisco, where they have gay policemen. But I'm telling you that in Truro, Nova Scotia, it just wouldn't sit," said Giffin.

The Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE) has drafted a resolution calling on Giffin to quit on the grounds that it had no confidence in his willingness to uphold the rights of Nova Scotians, particularly those of gays. Robin Metcalfe, a member of GAE and a Halifax gay activist, said the organization made two other demands.

"We want the government to disassociate itself from Giffin's statements and say it will not use the opting-out clause, and we want it to include



A-G Giffin: "We're being carried away with individual rights"



Premier Buchanan: "It's a non-issue"

the right not to be discriminated against because of sexual orientation in the province's human rights code," said Metcalfe.

GAE has received no response to date on any of its demands and, when a Charter defence group met later in July, the letter with 25 signatures from representatives of a wide variety of community groups that they sent to Nova Scotia premier John Buchanan was also left unanswered.

The premier's silence on Giffin's opinion

about not hiring gay cops, his aides claim, does not mean that he agrees with his attorney-general, but that it is "a non-issue."

Caught outside a cabinet meeting a week after Giffin threatened to use the opt-out clause, Buchanan told reporters the province hadn't yet opted out and he didn't see that it would, "because it has not yet been determined by a court whether it applies or not... I don't support (Giffin) nor do I disagree with him, because I think

it's a non-issue."

The premier and his cabinet is trying to forget Giffin ever spoke out against gays on police forces and, when Buchanan and others say it's a non-issue it is because, according to Metcalfe, "they'd like to believe that, so they can evade answering to the degree of public outrage Giffin's comments started. They wish Giffin hadn't brought it out."

continued on page 10

A nail in the Tory coffin?

As attorney-general of Nova Scotia, Ron Giffin may have set back the province's justice system 10 years when he told police chiefs nothing could force him to hire gays as police officers, but as a senior cabinet minister in the Buchanan government, his remarks, and the response they have generated, reveal a government on its way out of power.

In March, a Decima Research Ltd private opinion poll showed that 56 percent of the province's population still supported the Conservatives, up five percent from November, 1984. But an Omnifacts poll released at the end of July shows that support has faltered: the Conservatives now are running second to the Liberals in the province as a whole, and third after the New Democrats in Halifax.

The Nova Scotia Conservative Party has been right in the middle of the Giffin issue since he told the annual meeting of Atlantic police chiefs he would introduce legislation if

necessary to keep gays off his province's police forces. The party's president, John Abbass of Sydney, said he didn't want anything to do with gays. "I don't want them around me, and I don't know any homosexuals in the Tory Party."

The Daily News, a Halifax tabloid, ran that story under a huge red headline crying "No Gay Tories."

The vice-president of the party later said gays are still welcome in the party, despite what Abbass said.

"I don't think there is anything wrong with Mr Abbass stating a sexual preference, but there is always a danger that his personal beliefs might be interpreted as party policy," said vice-president Deborah Grant.

"I would like to hope that members of the gay community would look beyond anyone's personal beliefs. We're still very much an open party," she said.

Members of the gay community and their supporters, however, will not be that forgiving in the next election, many people say. Anne Derrick, a Halifax lawyer, said Giffin "is at the twilight of his political career, and he has fully discredited himself," and others extend that argument to include the entire Conservative government.

Lynn Murphy, a spokesperson for the Gay Alliance for Equality, said she knows one man, who is very high up in the party and who has worked for years for the organization during elections, who is disgusted with the whole issue.

"I've voted Tory maybe once or twice, but I would have to think twice before I said yes to any Tory who came to my door this time around," said Murphy. *Lois Corbett* •

continued from page 9

A constitutional law expert at Dalhousie University agrees with Metcalfe, saying on one hand the calls from reporters to his home and office have slowed down considerably, but he hopes the issue will not just die due to lack of media attention. For Professor Wayne MacKay, this latest incident is just one more example that shows the Buchanan government "is not happy with the Charter of Rights."

"Clearly this is a calculated move to single out an unpopular and small minority in the province, one against which he thinks he can make political gain. It's almost unthinkable in 1986 to make the same sort of statement against Jews or blacks or women. He's reading the people of Nova Scotia

"People would say they had no problem until it was their young son who was arrested and searched by a gay cop"

and thinking the majority of them disagree with giving gays full rights and protection," said MacKay.

As well, MacKay said he doesn't like to see the attorney-general threatening to use the opting-out clause in what he said is an "indiscriminate, off-handed fashion. There may be cases where its use is appropriate, but those are only extreme ones. It shouldn't be used as an afterthought in a speech to the chiefs of police," said MacKay.

But the president of the Chiefs of Police Association in Nova Scotia said Giffin's speech was well-thought out and well-received at the Truro meeting. Keith Cole, who is deputy chief of police in Dartmouth as well as president of the association, said in an interview that his organization supports the statements of the attorney-general, and does not see any reason why Giffin or the police chiefs should change their minds.

In fact, Cole said, the issue was raised in October of 1985, when the chiefs of police passed a resolution urging that gays not be allowed onto municipal police forces. "At that meeting, we emphasized the fact that we could not agree to having homosexuals on our police forces," said Cole, "but whether that resolution prompted Mr Giffin to raise the whole subject, raise the flag, so to speak, I don't know."

Cole said the police chiefs of Nova Scotia were concerned about the issue when a parliamentary committee in Ottawa was collecting information about allowing homosexuals to work for the RCMP and the military late last year. "When we were viewing that situation, we knew that if it came to pass that homosexuals were allowed into the RCMP, then we were afraid that it would filter down to the municipal level. Our organization felt then that it was not appropriate to have homosexuals in the profession we're in," he said.

"That's not saying we're discriminating against gays. But we do have to say it, and take that stand, until homosexuals are accepted by society," said Cole.

Cole said the police are "the moral reflection of the morals of the community" and he thinks people in this province would find it "very difficult if the towns and cities opted to have homosexuals on the police forces." He disputes a recent

Gallup poll that shows that more than 71 percent of the province's citizens think there should not be discrimination based on sexual orientation by saying "you can state all kinds of statistics, and use Gallup polls like that one. And they are valid argument, we don't dispute that. But those people who advocate having homosexuals on police forces haven't sat down and assessed the problem that is there. People in the community who responded to those polls would say they have no problem with gays on the police force until it was their young daughter or young son who was involved in an incident and arrested or searched by a gay cop."

Cole also said he was looking at the issue from "the gays' side, we're trying to protect them and tell them they have to be accepted by society first. Police have enough problems as it is, with trying to patrol areas and control situations, and understand new legislation, but throwing that one into the middle of all those problems would be too much."

Metcalfe said Cole is using self-serving arguments, as much as he would like to believe he's looking out for gays. "A gay person who applies for the job as a police officer would be much more aware of the problems than Keith Cole. But you have to say 'So what?' People have to make a choice on the issue and say 'Tough shit' — people are going to have to get used of the idea of having gays on police forces."

Public attitude changes because institutions change, said Metcalfe, and the institutions, like the police forces, have to be leaders in the battle to protect gay rights, not followers who wait for some time in the future when homosexuality is accepted.

"And people's attitudes are changing now, they've been changing over the last 15 years. There have been signals sent out that there is almost a social consensus that sexual orientation cannot be used as a basis of discrimination," he said.

The media attention the issue has generated also shows that society has gone through a transition about the issue, said Metcalfe. When Giffin first made his statements, the press dogged his every move, contacted other Conservative Party members in the province, interviewed gay activists as far away as Toronto and even published editorials calling for Giffin's resignation. "This is the first time I've seen the media so consistently supportive of gay rights," said Metcalfe. "With all the coverage, and their confrontation of Giffin, you would almost have to believe that there was never a time when they hadn't been supportive."

And while the news coverage has slowed down, letters about Giffin's statements continue to pour into the offices of Halifax newspapers. Anne Derrick, a Halifax lawyer and an author of one of the letters, said she hopes the issue will not die, at least not until the attorney-general, and perhaps the entire Conservative government, are defeated in the next provincial election. Derrick wants Giffin to "recant or resign."

"I think he's a homophobe and he hasn't recanted. I don't think the attorney-general should occupy that position if he has those beliefs and if he says them publicly," said Derrick.

Derrick wants the government to say it is committed to the Charter. "Giffin has shown us the danger in the Charter, by threatening to use the opting-out clause. But I think it would be politically obtuse to rely on that clause."

Giffin has given the justice system in Nova Scotia a poor image, said Derrick, who describes

herself as a "social agitator." "He dis-serves the application of justice in Nova Scotia. He's shown that one community at least cannot rely on being treated equally here. And that's inconsistent with what's happening across Canada. Sure gay people are discriminated against across the country, but there are some steps being taken by other provincial governments, like Quebec, and the federal government to do something about that. They are at least taking some steps towards liberalizing attitudes towards gays. But what does Nova Scotia do? It has an attorney-general who says gays are weirdos and he caters to the people who believe that. That's a horrifying position to adopt in 1986," says Derrick.

Wayne MacKay said he is always trying to fight opinions in central Canada that generalize about Nova Scotia and said he doesn't want this issue to be something that people outside the province think can happen "only in Nova Scotia." "What I've been saying a lot lately is that it's not necessarily Nova Scotians speaking, it's the government. A significant number of Nova Scotians are incensed by what Giffin said. But here we have a government who is opposed to protecting the rights of its people, especially minority groups. The government here is up-front about its opposition to the Charter. They don't want it to protect people."

There are a number of cases where the government, particularly the cabinet, have made it quite clear they are not happy with the Charter of Rights. A number of ministers are on record as saying they don't agree with the Charter, said MacKay, and that they, not the federal government, know best about protecting people's rights. "That's been Ron Giffin's line, that's been (social services minister) Edmund Morris's line. They didn't want a Charter of Rights included in the constitution and they are particularly unhappy with the broad equality rights the charter guarantees Canadians," said MacKay.

Some other people are unhappy with the Charter of Rights too. A small right-wing fundamentalist group has written to Giffin and the daily newspapers congratulating him on his stance. Bob Ritchie, author of the letter and vice-president of the Christian Political Alliance of Nova Scotia, said "the Lord" told him and a few others to start a political party to re-establish Christian principles in the province. "We wish to establish a just rule in the province," said Ritchie in an interview, "and, if we govern this province, God will bless Nova Scotia." Ritchie said the paper edited out the biblical quotes he used in his letter "to show that homosexuality is a sin. It's a sin, a terrible, terrible sin. It's not just a disease, it's not just a bad habit, it's a sin," said Ritchie.

While Ritchie and his party are not numerous in Halifax, he said he has attended several meetings since the party first formed in April of this year and the response it is getting in rural areas is "good, better than we expected." These are the people, and perhaps some not quite so extreme, to whom Keith Cole and Ronald Giffin are catering when they say they are answering to the "morals of our society." They are the ones that convince Giffin and Cole that the stereotypes they still hold about gays and lesbians are valid representations.

"There are a lot of ramifications of hiring homosexuals as police officers," said Cole. "If a police officer does a search, and does it properly, then there shouldn't be any outcry. But if he is gay, you'll get some people who wouldn't like it. A lot of people are turned off by homosexuality. And that's when having gay cops becomes a

problem," he said.

Even the support gay police officers have been offered by their union is somewhat reserved. Ed Hiscock, secretary of the Halifax Police Patrolman's Association and a member of the board of directors of the Police Associations of Nova Scotia, said the union is prepared to defend the right of any gay officer fired because of his sexual orientation.

"When you have a labour union, the union has basic obligations to its people. We will represent the rights of our members," said Hiscock. In

"You have to say 'So what?' People have to make a choice on the issue and say 'Tough shit' — people are going to have to get used to the idea of having gays on police forces"

court? "I'd hate to get caught up in speculation, saying this is what we would do if a member of our association was fired."

Giffin is saying gay cops can't do the job, said Hiscock. "But there you are getting into the morality of sexual preference and that's something I want to stay away from. I can see the validity of some of his points. I certainly wouldn't consider doing a body search of a female prisoner, because some people might say that I had some sexual interest in mind. So you can imagine the implications for a gay person if he was searching a man," he said.

Cole uses the same example, and also says having gay officers on the forces would cause morale problems. "Say I was a gay cop and you're another cop, and I put my hand on your shoulder. You'd cringe. And imagine the kinds of catcalls that police officer would get walking down the street," said Cole.

Metcalfe said opinions like those are not about to disappear immediately, but he is optimistic that the gay community in Nova Scotia has won this battle, for now. "This issue has outraged people like no other has. There have been more people and more energy at our meetings than I've seen for years. We had our hopes raised with the Charter and people are enraged to see the government try to take that away from us now," he said.

Giffin used the gay community as a "trial balloon" said Metcalfe. "Gays are the most vulnerable group. They wanted to see if they could get away with bashing gays and then, if that worked, they'd try bashing someone else."

"But we've won round one. The government hasn't asked for Giffin's resignation, but they aren't rushing to his defence either."

Lois Corbett •

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"How do you separate the men from the boys at the CBC? With a crowbar." — Nova Scotia attorney-general Ronald Giffin, overheard July 11 by Halifax reporters. •

Sex okay — if it's not gay

Canada Customs has no problem with Joy of Sex, but bans Joy of Gay Sex as obscene

In December 1985, The Joy of Gay Sex was banned in Canada.

Described as "an intimate guide for gay men to the pleasures of a gay lifestyle," the popular reference book, an encyclopedia of the sexual and nonsexual concerns of gay men, was seized by Canada Customs on its way to Glad Day Book Shop in Toronto. A copy of The Joy of Lesbian Sex, also seized, was later found to be acceptable, and returned to the store.

Although it had been on sale in Canada since 1977, The Joy of Gay Sex has been removed from bookstore shelves across Canada and no further copies will be imported by PaperJacks Ltd, the Canadian distributor.

The fuss began in 1985 when an unidentified woman accidentally examined a copy of the book in a Toronto outlet of W H Smith. Popular legend has it she meant to reach for The Joy of Cooking. She complained to the police and Project P — the Ontario Toronto police anti-pornography unit — was dispatched to investigate in September.

Officers consulted a Canada Customs list of obscene publications. This is where it gets complex, because that particular list had been rendered obsolete when the Customs Tariff Act of 1867 was struck down by the Federal Court of Canada for being unconstitutional under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. So having examined a list which no longer reflected the law of the land, Project P ordered W H Smith executives in person to remove the book from their shelves.

W H Smith and the RCMP advised General Publishing Co Ltd, at that time the Canadian distributor. President Jack Stoddart dispatched a memo to Canadian bookstores requesting the return of all copies.

Two months later, Stoddart advised bookstores that The Joy of Gay Sex was no longer on the "revised" list, which reflected the court finding of unconstitutionality, and that the book was again "legal." Three weeks after that, on December 16, Stoddart again wrote to bookstores,



this time providing a copy of a letter from Linda E Murphy, Manager of the Prohibited Importations Unit of Revenue Canada. The Joy of Gay Sex was again pronounced obscene.

According to Murphy, "the numerous depictions and descriptions of the act of buggery, in conjunction with descriptions of bondage and domination, would render the book obscene." However, The Joy of Gay Sex has never been successfully prosecuted in a Canadian court of law. In 1974 a judge of the Alberta Supreme Court found the book to be "not obscene" in the case of *Regina vs Coles Book Stores Ltd*, ruling that "sex was not unduly exploited within the

meaning of the Criminal Code."

The new Canada Customs yardstick for obscenity, Tariff Item 99201-1, forbids "sexual acts that appear to degrade or dehumanize any of the participants." To be more specific, activities in this category are stated to include:

- sex with violence, exploitation, or humiliation;
- rape;
- bondage;
- descriptions which associate pain and suffering with sexual pleasure;
- descriptions of gratification gained through causing physical pain;
- sexual arousal attained through mutilation or the real or implied taking of human life;
- display of urine or feces;
- portrayals or descriptions of the act of buggery.

Notice that, with the notable exception of the last entry, the activities referred to above involve forced sex and other games of power. The Joy of Gay Sex contains one paragraph about this type of activity. The heterosexual manual, The Joy of

Sex, however, goes into detail, with four full pages of text and a full-page illustration of a woman tied to the four corners of a bed. The Joy of Sex was passed by Canada Customs, but the Joy of Gay Sex was banned.

Now for that last item. "Buggery" is defined in The Criminal Law Quarterly as "anal intercourse, either homosexual or heterosexual." Although no longer a crime if carried out between consenting adults in private, the status of the depiction or description of buggery, straight or gay, is not clear.

Not surprisingly, The Joy of Gay Sex contains frequent references to anal sex. But then, so does The Joy of Sex. The Joy of Sex was passed, but The Joy of Gay Sex was banned.

This apparently discriminatory application of obscenity regulations will be the basis of a court challenge by the Canadian Committee Against Customs Censorship. CCACC is a new coalition of gay and lesbian interests which operates at arm's length from Glad Day Book Shop. The committee's manifesto explains that they deplore "the exploitation of women, young people, and

others" and is working to "eliminate arbitrary state control of... consensual sexual practices between individuals."

CCACC hopes to operate in the future as a Canadian umbrella group for people concerned about censorship and for individuals who may wish to appeal Revenue Canada decisions.

The effect of former justice minister John Crosbie's proposed new definitions of pornography (See TBP, August 1986) on the legal status of the Joy of Gay Sex remains to be seen. When asked specifically by a Toronto Star reporter about the status of The Joy of Sex under the proposed legislation, Crosbie suggested that "educational materials" would be excluded and that the (heterosexual) manual would be unaffected. He did not mention the (homosexual) manual. However, as he had previously pledged to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the federal sector, (See TBP, April 1986) it is hoped that there will be a fair application of the "educational escape clause." So watch for either a re-evaluation of the status of The Joy of Gay Sex or some interesting contortions of logic in the courts as the CCACC challenge gets underway.

Alan Orr •

For more information about CCACC, contact: Canadian Committee Against Customs Censorship, 598A Yonge St, Toronto, Ont M4Y 1Z3.

Who censors imported books and magazines, anyway?

Lots of people, that's who. Bureaucrats, the police, even volunteers!

No single group with clearly defined guidelines and undisputed constitutional powers has been given the mandate to decide what can and cannot be imported and sold at Canadian newsstands. Instead, foreign publishers must steer their products through a maze of regulations and litmus tests for obscenity. The situation is different in each province or territory, but let's look at Ontario as a case study.

Say you'd just published a magazine of dubious literary value (wink, wink; nudge, nudge) and wanted to sell it in Ontario. Here are the hurdles you must clear.

Canada Customs 1

Although the Customs branch of Revenue Canada is generally responsible for collecting duty and taxes on items brought into the country, each Customs officer at the border and at every international airport also has the power to examine your reading material, declare it obscene and seize it. Decisions are based on a well guarded list of the types of material which would be considered "hate propaganda," "treasonable," "seditious" or "obscene."

Foreign publishers generally submit pre-publication versions of their magazines to the Prohibited Importations Unit of Canada Customs in Ottawa. The Unit "advises" the publisher of the areas which would, in their opinion, contravene the guidelines and result in the magazine being turned away at the border. The guideline which is most often used to censor gay male erotica prohibits the depiction of sodomy, which was decriminalized in 1969 if "committed" in private between two consenting adults. But — can you guess? — if there's a photographer present (not to mention the reader), then the act is apparently no longer taking place in private. And that's

against the law, so it's banned. The Prohibited Importations Unit advises the publisher which areas are objectionable and the publisher uses black dots to strike out the offending activity. Separate Canadian black-dot editions are then added to the end of the regular press run.

And then the magazines are clear to enter Canada, right? Wrong.

Canada Customs 2

Those individual Customs officers stand on guard for thee and have the right to seize material which in their opinion is offensive, treasonable, seditious, or hate propaganda, regardless of the advice the publisher may have received from the Prohibited Importations Unit. This power to use their own discretion means that some items are banned in only certain parts of the country. A recent edition of the US gay newsmagazine, The Advocate, was banned in British Columbia because an inspector there objected to the classifieds; yet the same issue was approved virtually everywhere else.

Ontario Advisory Committee on Contemporary Literature

Once your masterpiece makes it through the Canada Customs regulations, it has community standards to contend with. "Which community?" you ask, "Whose standards?"

In theory, that's the business of the courts. In practice, it is the police who in most instances make these determinations. They have only to frown and your publication is whisked off the shelves by retailers who believe they have no interest in defending their customers' freedoms in court. But just to make sure that even those unwelcome frowns are few — a hardy lot, these publishing types — Ontario's book and magazine distribution industry has created the Ontario Advisory Committee on Contemporary Literature.

The committee, composed of three paid consultants with the right academic stuff, reviews your magazine and "suggests" — no one ever censors, have you noticed? — which pages should be ripped out by the distributor.

The Police

The men and women in blue can seize material from the newsstands, even after all the previous examinations. This is the most visible form of censorship and the least elegant. The publicity resulting from a seizure usually means an increase in sales in areas where there have been no seizures. In Toronto, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Metro Toronto Police jointly operate Project P, under the orders of the Ontario attorney-general. It often reviews decisions made by the Ontario Advisory Committee on Contemporary Literature, and is the police agency which lays criminal charges against any offending material which has escaped the scissor's gauntlet.

Canada Post

The Post Office has the power to censor or seize mail which the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs finds to be "obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous." So much for your subscription copies.

Municipalities

The provincial government has authorized municipalities to oversee the "licensing, regulating, classifying and inspecting" of adult entertainment parlours. Never heard of one? An adult entertainment parlour is defined as any place which provides "goods or services appealing to erotic or sexual appetites or inclinations." Sound like your local shopping mall?

As you can see, censorship in Ontario is no more than the whims of a number of individuals in positions of power. And you know how enlightened some of those people can be.

AO •

NETWORK

Network is The Body Politic's listing of community groups and services of interest to lesbians and gay men throughout Canada. It can help you get in touch with what's going on where you live — and you can help us keep it up-to-date by letting us know about activities in your area.

To get your group listed, or to update any of the information provided here, write: *Network, The Body Politic, Box 7289, Stn A, Toronto ON M5W 1X9.*



Alcoholics Anonymous, International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women, Box 492, Village Stn, New York NY 10014.

Archives for the Protection of Gay History and Literature, Box 6368, Stn A, Saint John NB E2L 4R8.

Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Association/Association des Lesbiennes et des gais de l'Atlantique, contact GAE (Halifax), FLAG (Fredericton) or Northern Lambda Nord (Western NB).

Brethren Mennonite Council for Gay Concerns (BMC), Box 24060, Washington, DC 20024. (202) 462-2595.

Canadian Gay Archives, Box 639, Stn A, Toronto ON M5W 1G2. (416) 364-2759.

Dignity/Canada/Dignité, Box 1912, Winnipeg MB R3C 3R2. (204) 772-4322.

Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Transsexuals, Box 291, Stn A, Hamilton ON L8N 3C8. (416) 529-7884. SW Ontario: Ms R M Schwartzenbauer, 21 Cherry St, Kitchener ON N2G 2CS. (519) 576-5248.

Gay Interest Group, Canadian Library Association, Box 1912, Winnipeg MB R3C 3R2.

Gay Men's Across Canada Meet and Mate Association, c/o S O'Reilly, Box 482, Station C, Kitchener, ON, N2G 4A2.

Gay Mensa, c/o TBP, Drawer C622, Box 7289, Station A, Toronto, ON, M5W 1X9.

International Gay Association, International Secretariat, c/o RFSL, Box 350, S-101 24 Stockholm, Sweden, ph: 46-8-848050, or 845576. Action Secretariat, c/o NVH/COC, Rozenstraat 1, 1016 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ph: 31-20-234596. Women's Secretariat, c/o SHRG, 58A Broughton St, Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 3SA.

International Gay Youth Information Pool (IGYIP), Box 1305, Vika, N-0112, Oslo 1.

International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS), c/o Centre Femme, 5 Boulevard St Georges, Geneve CH-1025, Switzerland.

Lesbians Across Canada Meet and Mate Association, c/o S O'Reilly, Box 482, Station C, Kitchen, ON, N2G 4A2. Personalized contact and correspondence service for women.

Ligo de Samseksamaj Geesperantistoj, gay Esperanto organization, 1000 Cesar Ave, Ottawa ON K1Z 7P2.

New Democratic Party Gay Caucus, Box 792, Stn F, Toronto ON M4Y 2N7.

North American Transvestite-Transsexual Contact Service, Box 3, Athens, Ohio 45701, USA. (206) 624-8266.

Section on Gay and Lesbian Issues in Psychology, c/o Canadian Psychological Association, 558 King Edward Ave, Ottawa ON K1N 7N6.

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship Canada, Box 408, Stn C, Toronto ON M6J 3P5. (416) 533-5896.

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, Inc, Box 3840, Los Angeles CA 90078-3840 USA. (213) 876-2076.

Super 60 for Elderly Men. Men 60 or over seeking mates of similar age for caring, sharing life, hobbies, travel, etc. Local, national, monthly listing. Free service. Send long self-addressed stamped envelope. Box 103, 606 W Barry, Chicago, IL 60657.

Women's Archives, Box 928, Stn Q, Toronto ON M4T 2P1.



Whitehorse

Lesbian support group, c/o Yukon Status of Women, 302 Steele St, Y1A 2CS.



Provincial

Affirm: Gays and Lesbians of the United Church in BC, Box 46586, Stn G, Vancouver V6R 4G8. 738-7557. Support group and educational resources.

West Coast & Across Canada Lesbian Correspondence Club. Write: S O'Reilly, General Delivery, Fort St John, VIJ 4H5.

Campbell River

Island Gay Society, Box 71, Campbell River, V9W 4Z9. Or call 287-4223.

Comox Valley

The Island Gay Society — Comox Valley, Box 3073, Courtenay, V9N 5N3, 338-9479. Lay and peer-group counselling, social contacts and get-togethers, etc.

Coombs

Emily's Place. For lesbians. Box 220, N° 4, Virginia Rd. 248-5410.

Duncan

The Island Gay Society — Cowichan Valley Branch. Duncan, Box 407, V9L 3X1. 748-7924.

Fraser Valley

Fraser Valley Gay and Lesbian Support Group, Box 3413, Langley, V3A 4R7. 530-9028 or Ron: 888-2189.

Three of Cups. Lesbian support group. 826-5338 (Tues 7-9pm).

Fort St John

Fort St John Lesbians. Wendy: 785-1242.

Kamloops

Thompson Area Gay Group, Box 3343, V2C 6B9. Welcomes women and men to regular meetings, discussions, social events. Info, newsletter, peer support, friendship.

Kelowna

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous. Support Group only. Call James: 762-0422, page 470.

Okanagan Gay Organization. Box 7II, Stn A, VIY 7P4. Mutual support and social events. Contact through Kelowna Crisis Line: 763-9191.

Nanaimo

The Island Gay Society — Nanaimo. Box 127, V9R 5K4. 754-8027. Holds monthly socials.

Port Alberni

The Island Gay Society — Port Alberni. Box 158, V9Y 1R1. 724-4914.

Port Hardy

North Island Gay and Lesbian Support and Information Group. Box 1404, V0N 2P0.

Prince George

Gay Crisis Counselling. Prince George Crisis Line: 563-2124.

Progressive People of Central Interior. Box 1942, Stn A, V2L 5E3.

Prince Rupert

Gay People of Prince Rupert. Box 881, V8J 3Y1. 627-8900 (eve).

Kaien Island Women's Group. 624-9847, 1603 W 2nd Ave, V8J 1J5.

Revelstoke

Lothlorien. Box 8557, Sub 1, V0E 3G0. Info, friendship, hospitality.

Terrace

Gay Connection. 638-1632 Northern Lesbians, RR 2, Box 50, Usk Store, V8G 3Z9.

Vancouver

Adult Children of Alcoholics. Contact Louise: 876-9392.

AIDS Vancouver. Box 4991, MPO, V6B 4A6. 687-AIDS.

Alcoholics Anonymous (Gay). 684-8960 (men), 929-2585 (women).

Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes. Sally de Quadros: 873-9996 or Marie Arrington: 875-1050. Box 2233, V6B 3W5.

Alternate Image Camera Club. 688-2021.

Archives Collective. Box 3130, MPO, V6B 3X6.

669-5978.

Boots. Contact club for men into boots, uniforms, motorcycles, etc. Jeff: Box 48577, 595 Burrard St, V7X 1A3.

Coming Out (Gay Radio). c/o Vancouver Cooperative Radio, 337 Carrall St, V6B 2J4.

Thurs at 7:30 pm, 102.7 MHz FM.

Dignity/Vancouver. Box 3016, V6B 3X5. 430-1466.

Dogwood Monarchist Society. 303-1150 Burnaby St, V6E 1P2.

English Bay Swim Club. Ken 433-8000. Meets Thurs 6:45-8 pm at Aquatic Centre, 1050 Beach Ave.

Frontrunners (running/jogging). Call Bob 669-7589 or Tom 874-1070.

Gay Asians of Vancouver. Box 4463, V6B 3Z8.

324-8957.

GayleVision. TV show by gay people about gay life, culture & art. Regular monthly and special programmes. Box 2259, MPO, V6B 3W2.

689-5661 or 684-6869.

Gay Fathers of Vancouver. Box 3785, V6B 3Z1. 688-6590.

324-8957.

Parents and Friends of Gays. 926-1044.

Quaker Lesbian and Gay People and Supporters. 208-1242 Robson St, Vancouver, V6E 1C1. Every 4th Thurs at 7 pm; call Rob at 683-4176 for location.

Rights of Lesbians. Box 24687, Stn C, V5T 4E6.

Rob Joyce Legal Defense Fund. c/o Gay Rights Union.

926-1044.

SEARCH. Phone workers give info and counselling. Sun-Thur: 7-10pm; Fri: 6-midnight; Sat: 2pm-midnight; answering machine other times. 684-6869. Box 2259, MPO, V6B 3W2.

Sha'r Hayam. Box 4603, MPO, V6B 4A1.

Spokes. Gay cyclists. Box 2259, MPO, V6B 3W2. Call Brent 687-5069 or Michael 879-6623.

Square Across the Border. Gay square dancing club. Box 312, 1755 Robson St, V6B 1C9. 685-4836 or 688-5797.

Testing Positive Drop-in/Support Group. For people who test positive to the HTLV-11 virus, or who have ARC. Contact AIDS Vancouver, 687-2437.

Vancouver Activists in S/M (VASM). call George, 594-3632. An educational organization with a monthly newsletter. Write Box 2204, New Westminster, V3L 5A5.

Vancouver Crisis Centre. 733-4111, 24 hours/day; youth line: 733-3433, 3:30-11:30pm.

Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. 1170 Bute St, N° 4; Box 2259, MPO, V6B 3W2. 684-6869.

Services, programmes, magazine.

Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Summer Games. c/o Metropolitan Vancouver Athletic and Arts Association.

Vancouver Gay Athletic Association. c/o 1018 Burnaby St. 681-2424.

Vancouver Gay Community Theatre. Write 1947 West 4th Ave, V6B 2L2, or telephone 734-4396 or 682-5174.

Vancouver Gay/Lesbian Community Centre Outdoors Club. Lindsay: 684-2813, SEARCH: 684-6869.

Vancouver Gay Volleyball Ass. Roy: 669-6696. 2632 Hemlock St, V6H 2V5.

Vancouver Lesbian Centre. 876 Commercial Dr. 254-8458.

Vancouver Lesbian Connection. Fundraising for lesbian building, coming out groups, lesbian rights. Box 65951, Stn F, V5W 5LA. VLC Centre, 876 Commercial Dr (open Mon-Fri, 11am-4pm; Sat 12-4pm). 254-8758.

Vancouver Lesbian/Gay Youth Group. Meets Sat 7-9pm. 684-6869.

Vancouver Men's Chorus. 1270 Chestnut St, V6J 4R9.

Rehearsals every Wed, 7:30 pm, at the Vancouver Academy of Music. For information call Dennis Jones: 669-SING.

Vancouver Pacific Rim Yacht Club. For gays and lesbians. 732-3080 or 669-2752.

Vancouver Rape Relief and Woman's Shelter. 872-8212. 77 E 20th Ave, V5N 5P3.

Vancouver TD Clinic. Rm 100, 828 W 10th Ave (near Gen Hosp). Appointments: 660-2421.

Weaver Institute. Gay workshops. 101-3309 Dunbar St, V6S 2B9. 222-1318.

West End Softball Association. 299-1755 Robson St, V6G 1C9. Call Frank Hamper 255-4410.

West End Volleyball. 222-1500 Pendrell St.

669-6696.

Women in Focus. 204-456 W Broadway, V5Y 1R3.

872-2250.

Women's Fastball. 433-6413. 2674 (basement) E 19th Ave, V5M 2F5.

Women's Health Collective. 682-1633, 888 Burrard St,

Cheap Charter challenges

Fast-tracking and funding now available to define equality rights

Court challenges to laws that discriminate against lesbians and gays are now easier and cheaper. Section 15 (the equality rights section) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was hailed as the provision that would outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. But the cost of establishing that a law infringed the Charter was prohibitively expensive. That is less so today because of two recent developments.

The first development is an Ontario Divisional Court ruling of May 29, 1986 that permits persons to challenge a particular law as offensive to the Charter by the simplified procedure of an "application." The significance of this ruling is that a challenge can now bypass the long and expensive process of statement of claim, examinations for discovery, and trial. Justice J H Osler in his written reasons for judgement upheld the proposition "that the rights of a party should not depend on long judicial proceedings where a matter can be dealt with expeditiously."

"Any Canadian now has an expeditious and inexpensive mechanism to come before the courts and have their rights determined," Timothy Danson, a Toronto lawyer says. It was Danson's challenge that was the subject of the divisional court ruling. "To proceed in the courts by way of application," stated Danson, "may only take three or four months for a decision to be reached. To proceed by way of action (trial) may take three or four years and is extremely expensive." The savings in dollars and time is expected to encourage a dramatic increase in court challenges to discriminatory laws and policies.

The second development is the establishment by the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) of the Court Challenge Program. Founded in 1920, the CCSD is a national non-governmental non-profit social policy organization which conducts independent research, policy analysis, community consultation and information-sharing. The Court Challenges Program, which is funded by the federal government, was formed in September of 1985 to fund in whole or in part cases which challenge legislation, policies or practices of the federal government that contravene language and equality rights guaranteed under the Charter.

The selection of the cases to receive funding is carried out by two separate panels; one for language rights, the other for equality rights. It was

on July 2 of this year that the CCSD announced the membership of the seven-member panel responsible for the equality rights component of the Court Challenge Program, thus making it fully operational. (The membership of the language panel had been previously announced.)

Richard Goreman, coordinator of the program, told TBP that there is no means test to determine whether an applicant qualifies for financial assistance. "However, only individuals and non-profit groups are eligible for funding," he added and continued that "the assistance avail-

able to cover legal costs is up to a maximum of \$35,000 for each stage of litigation, up to a maximum contribution of \$105,000."

The first meeting of the equality rights panel will take place in Ottawa August 9 and 10. The panel will meet four times a year. Goreman revealed that of the 25 applications so far received by the panel, two are gay/lesbian themed. One concerns an RCMP dismissal complaint and the other an Armed Forces honourable discharge complaint.

Applicants for financial assistance are requested to prepare a brief description of the proposed case and contact Richard Goreman, Coordinator, Court Challenge Program, Canadian Council on Social Development, 55 Parkdale Ave, Ottawa, Ont K1Y 4G1. (613) 728-1865.

Ric Taylor •

Realwomen are real bigots

Rightwing antifeminist group opens malicious campaign against gays

Realwomen of Canada, an antifeminist women's group, is continuing its campaign to save the Canadian family by attacking federal government policy acknowledging that gays and lesbians have rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

A pamphlet recently published and circulated by the group, expresses concern that legislation declaring sexual orientation a prohibited ground of discrimination under Section 15 of the Charter — no such legislation has been proposed — will lead to the proliferation of AIDS and hepatitis, an increase in prostitution and pornography, the seduction of youth, and the destruction of the family and traditional moral values.

The pamphlet also offers a crash course in what constitutes homosexual activity ("It involves acts such as oral sex, anal intercourse, masturbation by manual stimulation, sadomasochism, bestiality and other perversions.") and explains that, while *everyone* is against discrimination, the alleged amendment to the Charter will deprive employers, landlords and parents of the right to "exercise a sound discretion based on

a legitimate factor (moral character)."

An article in the Summer 1986 issue of Realities, the Realwomen publication, echoes these sentiments and urges all concerned women to write to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, federal justice minister Ray Hnatyshyn and their own MPs.

A staff member at the Realwomen of Canada office told TBP that "thousands" of pamphlets were being prepared for distribution to members of the Ontario legislature and to members of Realwomen. She noted a "favourable response" to these measures by the membership and expressed confidence that the write-in campaign would be effective.

Although a number of petitions and exhortations to write to MPs have been circulating in the gay community for some time, the knowledge that Realwomen have mounted their own write-in campaign may encourage those who haven't yet made their feelings known in Ottawa to do so. No postage is required. And remember, you too may play a role in the downfall of Western civilization.

Lynn Macfie •

School gets course on gay identity

Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute will offer a new course this fall that may get local gays and lesbians out of bed early on Sundays.

New Perspectives on Gay and Lesbian Realities has been designed for members of the gay and lesbian community by John Hunter of the School of Social Work at Ryerson.

Hunter spent the last year, researching the course material for both this personal-interest course and for a comparative course being taught to fourth-year degree social work students who may find themselves working in the gay community at some point in their careers.

Hunter says he found much fascinating material that people are unaware of. He feels the information he has gathered "will help consolidate the gay identity."

Most of the information concerns the gay male past and the course is geared towards males, but Hunter says he has enough flexibility to let the course take new directions after consulting his

students.

Hunter says the course will be "informal and quiet." Only his classroom and the Ryerson library will be open on Sundays.

Ryerson's calendar says the course will "examine the place of same-sex attractions within the scope of possible human affectional, sexual, and non-sexual expressions. A gay/lesbian 'positive' approach will be taken. The course will explore how and why the gay and lesbian community, especially in Toronto, has developed networks of self-help, and recreational, supportive and religious organizations. The format will be lecture/discussion supplemented by guest speakers."

Those living in the Toronto area who want more information and those living elsewhere who wish to receive booklists or course outlines for study on their own can call the Ryerson School of Social Work at (416) 979-5179. Grant Ramsay •

MP sees no need to portray sex

MP Jim Jepson (PC — London East), known for inflammatory statements concerning the proposed changes to the Criminal Code aimed at curbing pornographic material, stated he is against "abnormal or pornographic" sex between consenting adults, in an interview with TBP August 6.

Recently appointed to a parliamentary committee which will study changes to laws concerning pornography (See TBP, August 1986), Jepson has spoken out against material depicting vaginal, anal or oral intercourse, even if it occurs between consenting adults. "I don't see the need for a couple to view that kind of thing," he told reporters June 15.

Asked by TBP where his definition of what constitutes "normal" sexual activity comes from, Jepson replied: "The average Canadian," and said that he felt his views represent "the clear majority of Canadians." He lamented that "so many criminal elements feed" off of pornography, and maintained that porn can "create a situation" that is conducive to more violent and aggressive behaviour.

When asked if he felt that consenting sexual activity between adults, heterosexual or homosexual, involving the use of pornography should be opposed by the government, Jepson said: "Abnormal or pornographic, yes." This activity, he explained, has repercussions that may not have obvious and immediate effects.

The committee will hold hearings this fall.

Andrew Lesk •

Coming OTTAWA

Community AIDS Committees Meeting. A conference of the province's community AIDS organizations. September 13-14. For more information: Jim Monk (519) 973-7705.

MONCTON

Atlantic Conference. Gays and Lesbians of Moncton will host a conference on the theme "Homosexuality and You," October 10-12 on the campus of the Université de Moncton. Advance registration of \$10 before October 1, \$15 after that. Billeting will be available for out-of-town guests. For more information, write to Jos Lavoie, School of Social Work, Université de Moncton, Moncton NB E1A 3E9 or call (506) 858-4181.

VANCOUVER

Vancouver Lesbian Connection Second Annual Open House. At the VLC Centre, 876 Commercial Drive, September 5, 7:30pm-midnight. For more information, call 254-8458.

ASK Reunion. A meeting of people connected with or interested in the Association for Social Knowledge, the first Canadian gay rights organization, formed in Vancouver in the late 1960s. There will be a "dollar party" on the evening of October 3 and a public panel on the history of Vancouver gay and lesbian politics at the West End Community Centre at 2pm, October 4. For more information, call Doug Sanders at 734-4715. •

ONCE UPON A TIME

Five years ago:

August 25, 1981 The Macdonald Commission's report on RCMP wrongdoing is released, revealing a long-established program for collecting information on homosexuals.

September 10, 1981: Gays of Ottawa (GO) celebrates its tenth anniversary by opening a gay community centre.

Ten years ago:

August, 1976: The BC Supreme Court dismisses the Vancouver Sun's appeal against a decision of a human rights commission board of inquiry that the newspaper had discriminated by refusing to publish a classified ad placed by the Gay Alliance Toward Equality.

September 4-6, 1976: The Fourth Annual Gay Conference is held in Toronto.

NETWORK

continued from page 12



MANITOBA
TELEPHONE AREA CODE 204

Provincial

Brethren/Mennonite Council for Gay Concerns (BMC) Manitoba, Box 2846, Winnipeg R3C 4B4.

Brandon

Gay Friends of Brandon, 727-1685, Wed 7-10 pm; Sat 1-4 pm.

Portage-la-Prairie

Bi-Women's Support Group, Box 820, RIN 3C3. 857-5295. For bisexual women.

Thompson

Gay Friends of Thompson, Box 157, R8N 1N2.

Winnipeg

Affirm: Gays and Lesbians of the United Church, 453-3984 (Eric) or 452-2853 (Dave). **A Little Bit of Magic, Inc.** A non-profit introduction service for gay men and lesbians. 775-4838.

Council on Homosexuality and Religion, Box 1912, R3C 3R2. 452-1813 or 786-3976. Worship, counselling, library.

Dignity/Winnipeg, Box 1912, R3C 3R2.

Gaie Livraison, Box 1912, R3C 3R2. Pamphlets and booklets on homosexuality.

Gay AA New Freedom Group, Box 2481, or contact through Manitoba Central Office, 233-3508.

Gay AlAnon Group. Info: Gays for Equality.

Gay Community Centre, 277 Sherbrooke St. 786-1236. Incorporating Giovanni's Room, a cafe for lesbians and gay men. Open every day except Sunday at 5:30 pm. Fully licenced.

Gay Fathers Winnipeg, Box 2221, R3C 3R5. 786-3976 (Thurs eve, 7:30 pm-10 pm).

Gay Outdoors Group, c/o Gays for Equality.

Gay Parents, c/o Gays for Equality.

Gays for Equality (GFE), Box 27, UMSU, U of Manitoba, R3T 2N2. 786-3976. Office: Suite 2, Gay Community Centre, 277 Sherbrook St. Counselling, info, rap sessions, public education and law reform. Lesbian counsellors on Tues evenings.

Lesbian Line, 786-3976, Tues evenings.

Ms Purdy's 226 Main St. 942-8212. Women's bar.

Mutual Friendship Society, Inc., Box 427, R3C 2H6. 774-3576. Social and educational programmes. Operates Happenings Social Club, 272 Sherbrook St.

Oscar Wilde Memorial Society, Box 2221, R3C 3R5. Variety of social, cultural and educational activities.

Project Lambda, Inc., Box 3911, Stn B, R2W 5H9. 772-1421. Lesbian/gay community service organization. Publishes **Out & About**, gay community library, community fund-raising for medical, library, educational and counselling services.

Winnipeg Gay Community Health Centre, Box 3175, R3C 4E6. 774-4846. Phone line, counselling, information on AIDS and other lesbian/gay health issues.

Winnipeg Gay Media Collective, Box 27, UMSU, U of Manitoba, R3T 2N2. 786-3976. Produces "Coming Out," weekly half-hour cable broadcast.

Winnipeg Gay Youth, c/o GFE.

University of Winnipeg Gay Students Association. Info: 786-3976.

Yourself, Box 2790, R3C 3R5. For bisexual men and women.



TELEPHONE AREA CODES VARY

Provincial

Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario, Box 822, Stn A, Toronto M5W 1G3. (416) 533-6824.

Brethren/Mennonite Council for Gay Concerns (BMC) Ontario, Box 2621, Stn B, Kitchener ON N2H 6N2.

Guelph

Area code: 519

Guelph Gay Equality, Box 773, NIH 6L8. Gayline: 836-4550, 24 hrs.

Gays Out of Doors (GOOD). See Kitchener-Waterloo.

Goderich

Area code: 519

Parents of Lesbians and Gays, c/o Anne Rutledge, 52 Essex St. N7A 2H4. 524-4879.

Hamilton

Area code: 416

Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Transsexuals (FACT Niagara), Box 291, Stn A, L8N 3C8.

529-7884.

Hamilton United Gay Societies. Includes all of the following:

AIDS Committee of Hamilton. Call Gayline Hamilton.

Gay Fathers of Hamilton. Support, advice. Meets twice a month. Call Gayline for info.

Gayline Hamilton. Info on all groups and activities, peer counselling, 523-7055 Wed-Fri, 7-10 pm.

Gay Women's Collective, c/o Gayline. Meets 2nd Mon of month.

Hamilton-Wentworth Gay Archives. Looking for photos, clippings, personal accounts of gay life and liberation in Hamilton, especially pre-1979. Hamilton: Mike Johnstone, Box 44, Stn B, L8L 7T5, 528-0156. Toronto: 644 Adelaide W, M6J 1A9, 364-0877 (Mike Dorman).

HUGS Support Group, a meeting of men and women, young and old, with discussions. Meets every Tue, Gay Community Centre, Suite 303, 41 King William St, 7:30 pm. Call Gayline for further info.

Mailing address for all Hamilton groups listed above: Box 44, Stn B, L8L 7T5.

Live and Let Live (Gay AA), Open meetings with speakers, last Sat of every month, 8 pm. All Saints Church Parish Hall, 15 Queen St (side entrance).

Kingston

Area code: 613

Queen's Homophile Association, 51 Queen's Crescent, Queen's University, K7L 2S7. 547-5841. (24-hr recorded message, staffed Moo-Fri, 7-9 pm. Drop-in Thurs evenings; biweekly dances.

Kitchener-Waterloo

Area code: 519

ACCKWA — The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Area. Box 1925, N2G 4R4. Call 579-3800 (Kitchener), or 653-5705 (Cambridge).

Messages will be forwarded. **Gay Caree Women**. Meet monthly for dinner, dancing, outings. Ruth Bateman: 743-3529.

Gay Liberation of Waterloo, c/o Federation of Students, U of Waterloo, Waterloo N2L 3G1. 884-GLOW. Coffeehouse every Wed at 8:30 pm, Campus Ctr, Rim 110.

Gay News and Views, radio programme, Tues, 6-8 pm, CKMS-FM, 94.5 MHz, 105.7 MHz on Grand River Cable. 200 University Ave W, Waterloo N2L 3G1. 886-CKMS.

Gays of Wilfrid Laurier University, c/o WLUSU, Wilfrid Laurier University, 75 University Ave W, Waterloo.

Gays Out of Doors (GOOD), Box 2751, Kitchener N2H 6N3. Outdoor activities and social club (camping, skiing, canoeing, cycling, picnics, potluck suppers and parties).

Half and Half Club. A non-profit social club that sponsors a bar and disco at 223 1/2 King St W, Kitchener (use Halls Lane entrance), 749-9084. Mon-Sat, 8 pm-1 am. Cover Thurs-Sat.

International Women's Day Committee, Box 1491, Stn C, Kitchener, N2G 4P2.

Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective, Box 2741, Stn B, Kitchener, N2H 6N3. 579-3325.

London

Area code: 519

Gay Youth London, c/o HALO. Meets Thurs at 7 pm, 2nd fl, 449 Colborne St.

433-3762. Recorded message 24 hrs/day. Peer counselling Mon and Thurs, 7-10 pm.

Homophile Association of London, Ontario (HALO), 649 Colborne St, N6A 3Z2. 433-3762. Coffee House: Mon, 7-10 pm. Disco/Bar: Wed, Fri and Sat, 9 pm-1:30 am. Gay AA meeting, Wed, 7 pm.

FFLAG (parents and friends of lesbians and gays). 48 Garfield Ave, N6C 2B5. 432-4581.

Nitty Gritty Gay Discussion Group, 649 Colborne St (upper). 473-4738.

Mississauga/Brampton

Area code: 416

GEM: Gay Community Outreach, Box 62, Brampton L6V 2K7. Phone: 278-6010.

Parents of Lesbians and Gays, c/o Mary Jones, 35 Willis Drive, Brampton ON L6W 1B2. 457-4570.

Niagara Region

Area code: 416

Forward Lambda, Box 603, Niagara Falls ON L2E 6V5.

Gays at Brock University (GAB). Contact GO Niagara. **Gay Outreach Niagara (GO Niagara)**. An organization for gay men and women in the Niagara Region. Box 61, St Catharines ON L2R 6R4. 684-0683.

Niagara College Gays (NCG). Contact GO Niagara.

North Bay

Area code: 705

Gay Fellowship of North Bay, Box 665, Callendar, ON P0H 1H0. Meetings Tues evenings. Call the phone line, (705) 476-3761 for details. The phone line is staffed Thurs evenings from 7-9 pm, but you can leave a message on the tape at other times.

Ottawa

Area code: 613

AIDS Committee of Ottawa, Box 3043, Stn D, K1P 6H6, or call Gayline, 238-1717, Mon-Fri, 7:30-10:30.

Gai Campus. Centre Universitaire, local 206, Université d'Ottawa.

Gayline/Telegal. 238-1717. Info and peer counselling for lesbians and gay men. Mon-Fri 7:30-10:30 pm.

Gay People at Carleton, c/o CUSA, Carleton University. For more info, call 238-1717.

Gays of Ottawa/Gais de l'Outaouais, Box 2919, Stn D, K1P 5W9. 900-238-1717. 318 Lisgar St, 2nd Floor: open 7:30-10:30 pm Mon-Thurs.

Sun: AA Live & Let Live group, 8 pm. Office: 233-0152.

Gay Youth Ottawa/Hull/Jeunesse Gai(e) d'Ottawa/Hull. For info call or write Gays of Ottawa. Meeting/drop-in, Wed 8 pm, 318 Lisgar St. 2nd Floor.

GO Centre. Open every weeknight from 7:30-10:30. 318 Lisgar St.

Groupe de Péres Gais. 238-1717.

Dignity/Ottawa/Dignité, Box 2102, Stn D, K1P 5W3.

Integrity/Ottawa, (gay Anglicans and their friends) c/o St George's Anglican Church, 152 Metcalfe St, K2P 1N9. 235-2516, 9-5, Mon-Fri. Meets 2nd and 4th Weds at 7:30 pm, at St George's.

Lambda Professional Community Church, Box 1193, Stn F, M4Y 2T8. 968-7423. Christian church with special outreach to gay community, working in association with Gaycare Toronto.

Lesbiennes et gais du campus/Lesbians and Gays on Campus, c/o SFUO, 85 rue Hastings Street, K1N 6NS.

Live and Let Live Group for gay alcoholics. Contact GO.

Metropolitan Community Church, Box 2979, Stn D, K1P 5W9. 232-0241. 7:30-10:30 pm. Cover Thurs-Sat.

Pink Triangle Services, Box 3043, Station D, K1P 6H6. A gay/lesbian social service and public education group (non-profit registered charity). PTS runs a gay/lesbian peer

counselling and community information line: 238-1717, Monday-Friday, 7:30-10:30 pm. PTS also runs a speaker's bureau and an educational service. Call business office: 563-4818.

Owen Sound

Area code: 519

Gays of Owen Sound and Area. A support group for gays and lesbians in the Grey/Bruce area. Box 1104.

Peterborough

Area code: 705

Gays and Lesbians at Trent and Peterborough. For information, contact the Trent University Women's Centre, K9J 7B8.

Stratford

Area code: 519

Festival Horizons. Info on theatre, restaurants and lodgings. Box 432, N5A 6T3.

Sudbury

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Gay men withhold blood

Stats suggest blood bank education working, show inaccuracy of test

Groups at risk for AIDS in Canada are heeding public education campaigns asking them to refrain from donating blood. And the test being used to screen blood for HIV antibodies is just as inaccurate as predicted in US trials. These are two conclusions which can be drawn from information available from the Canadian Red Cross.

According to Red Cross technical information officer Ken Mews, the organization received 779,442 blood donations from November 1, 1985, when HIV antibody testing started, to June 30 of this year. Each donation was tested three times with ELISA. Any sample which tested positive two out of the three times with ELISA was then subjected to the Western Blot test.

Of all the donations, 2,726 (0.35 percent) were positive with ELISA at least twice. Of these, just 166 (0.021 percent of the total) were subsequently confirmed with the Western Blot test.

If the donating population were similar to the adult population as a whole, these findings would indicate that no more than about 5,000 adult Canadians have HIV antibodies. However, AIDS community groups estimate that between one-quarter and one-half of active gay men in major urban centres have HIV antibodies, a group which would number many times more than 5,000. An obvious explanation of the discrepancy is that active gay men are underrepresented in the donating population because they are taking seriously the call to protect the blood supply by not giving blood.

Mews is inclined to this interpretation: "The educational campaign is to a large extent working, in that members of at-risk groups are not as well represented among donors as they are in the general population."

The Red Cross figures also dramatically confirm ELISA's high incidence of false positive

readings, first revealed in US trials. Only six percent of the samples which ELISA twice fingered as containing HIV antibodies were confirmed by the subsequent, authoritative Western Blot test. The other 94 percent were false alarms.

Mews declined to reveal how many samples obtained at least one positive ELISA reading. He attributes the high false positive rate to the failure of ELISA to distinguish between HIV antibodies and HLA, a system of antibodies found in women who have been pregnant, usually more than once.

Despite the high false positive rate for ELISA, even on repeated testing, many insurance companies now consider just one positive ELISA reading enough to disqualify an applicant for life insurance.

Ken Popert •

AIDS drug trials to begin in fall, set for three sites

Clinical testing of AZT, a drug thought to show some promise in combatting AIDS, will begin in Canada this fall according to National AIDS Centre director Greg Smith.

Smith says that a meeting between Health and Welfare Canada officials and representatives of Burroughs Wellcome, the US drug manufacturer that holds the AZT patent, went well and that a further meeting is planned before the end of August.

The meeting took place after pressure was brought to bear by the People With AIDS Coalition, a Vancouver-based group which presented health minister Jake Epp with a petition June 27 urging faster government action on the testing of experimental AIDS treatments.

A major problem has been the reluctance of Burroughs Wellcome, the only manufacturer of AZT, either to release the drug for general use before clinical testing has been completed or to expand the tests to include more PWAs. In an article published in the August issue of Discover, a US science news magazine, the company cites a number of scientific and ethical reasons for withholding the drug from the market until tests are finished. Critics say the company is applying standard drug-testing procedures inappropriately to a new and unique situation, in which large numbers of people are suffering from a fatal and incurable disease.

Smith revealed that Health and Welfare Canada will authorize tests of AZT involving 60 subjects in three locations and has allocated about \$1 million to finance the project.

One question mark is possible locations: the only laboratories now equipped to conduct such tests are all located in either Ottawa or Montreal and the federal government will not contribute to the upgrading of facilities elsewhere. When asked whether the full project was contingent on the establishment of a suitable laboratory by the government of British Columbia, the province with the largest number of AIDS patients after Ontario and Quebec, Smith replied: "We have no reason to believe that is not going to happen."

Ken Popert •

You can get more information and advice about AIDS by calling the following community sources:
St John's: St John's AIDS Information Committee, c/o Wally Upward (709) 739-7975
Halifax: Metro Area Committee on AIDS, c/o Gayline (902) 423-1389
Montreal: Montreal AIDS Resource Committee/Association des ressources montréalaises sur

le SIDA.....	(514) 937-7596
Comité SIDA à Montréal.....	(514) 282-9888
Ottawa: AIDS Committee of Ottawa.....	(613) 563-4818
Kingston: Kingston AIDS Project.....	(613) 549-1232
Toronto: AIDS Committee of Toronto.....	(416) 926-1626
AIDS Information Line, for a recorded message.....	(416) 924-5200
Hamilton: AIDS Committee of Hamilton.....	(416) 523-7055
Kitchener/Waterloo: AIDS Committee of Cambridge-Kitchener-Waterloo and Area, c/o Bill Allen.....	(519) 749-0977
London: AIDS Committee of London, c/o Richard Hudler.....	(519) 663-2069
Windsor: AIDS Committee of Windsor.....	(519) 256-4244
Thunder Bay: AIDS Committee of Thunder Bay.....	(807) 345-8011
Winnipeg: WGCHC AIDS Committee.....	(204) 774-4846
Regina: AIDS Regina.....	(306) 522-4522
Edmonton: Edmonton AIDS Network.....	(403) 424-4767
AIDS Phone Line.....	(403) 429-2437
Calgary: AIDS Calgary.....	(403) 262-6446
Vancouver: AIDS Vancouver.....	(604) 687-2437
Victoria: AIDS Vancouver Island.....	(604) 384-4554

AIDSSPEAK

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the organism believed to cause AIDS, perhaps in concert with other as yet unknown factors. Formerly called LAV, ARV and HTLV-III. The virus is detectable only by very expensive laboratory procedures which are performed only when there is strong evidence that a patient may have AIDS.

HIV antibodies: Substances produced by the body in reaction to invasion by HIV. The presence of these antibodies in blood indicates that HIV has entered the blood, but does not reveal whether the virus is still present or active.

ELISA: Enzyme-Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay, a chemical test designed to detect HIV antibodies. Because it is cheap, ELISA is used to screen blood supplies, although its hypersensitivity often causes it to detect antibodies where there are none, entailing the destruction of uncontaminated, along with contaminated, blood.

Western Blot Assay: The standard test for detecting HIV antibodies. Accurate, but too expensive to weed out false, positive ELISA results. •

NUMBERS

As of August 5, the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (LCDC) in Ottawa had recorded a total of 647 adult cases and 17 pediatric cases of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Canada. This compares with a total of 621 adult cases this past July 11 and a total of 275 adult cases one year ago.

LCDC figures may lag behind provincial statistics because of delays in diagnosis and reporting.

The current Canadian adult total of 647 cases breaks down as follows:

	Total	Gay or bisexual	
		Cases	Living
Canada	647	541	286
ON	264	248	122
QC	196	119	68
BC	135	127	68
AB	28	26	11
MB	8	8	7
NS	9	8	6
SK	4	4	3
NB	3	1	1

No cases are reported in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island or the Territories.



The only AIDS VACCINE available right now is at your drugstore.

It's called a condom.

The virus that triggers AIDS is carried in cum and can get in through the ass.

But tests have shown that, used properly with a water-soluble lubricant, a condom can stop the virus from getting in.

The prescription? Just

read the directions and take one before sex, with plenty of water-soluble lubricant.

So far there is no real vaccine to prevent AIDS. Condoms are the only protection we have. Doesn't it make sense to protect yourself and others?



NETWORK

continued from page 14

Windsor

Area code: S19

Closets are for Clothes. Weekly radio show, Monday at 7:30pm. CJAM, 91.5 FM. **Lesbian/Gay Community Service Group.** Box 7002, N9C 3Y6. 973-4951, Wed-Fri, 8-10pm (recorded message at other times). Meets monthly at downtown Public Library (downstairs). All other Windsor groups may be contacted through LGCSG.

Lesbian/Gay Students on Campus. Meets every other Fri 8-10pm at University of Windsor.

Women PACT (Planning And Caring Together). lesbian discussion group meets monthly. Time varies to accomodate shift workers. More information: 973-4951.



TELEPHONE AREA CODEN SARY

Brome

The Capables. Support group for bisexual men. Contact through Gay Info in Montreal.

Charlevoix

Area code: 418

Association pour les droits des gais de Charlevoix. CP 724, Clermont, G0T 1C0. 439-2080.

Hull

Area code: 819

Association gaie de l'ouest québécois. CP 1215, succ B, J8X 3X7. 778-1737.

Lennoxville

Area code: 819

Students Against Homophobia. Box 15, Bishop's University, J1M 1Z7. **La Différence.** Tuesday nights, 830 Père-Franciscain.

Montreal

Area code: S14

Affirm/Affirmer. a/s United Theological College, 3521 University, H3A 2A9. Gays in the United Church.

Aide aux transsexuels du Québec (ATQ). CP 363, Succ C, H2L 4K3. 259-4990 (Marcelle).

Aime-toi (AA). 6518, rue St-Vallier, H2S 2P7. 524-5821. For gay and lesbian alcoholics.

Alpha-Kiri. Alternative aux bars. 933-2395.

Antenne Rose, culture homosexuelle, lundi 16h30, Radio Centre-ville (102,3 MF).

Approche sécurisante des polytoxicomanes anonymes (ASPA). 305 Lagachetière, salle 1510, métro Champ-de-Mars. 324-6662.

Archives gaies du Québec. CP 395, Succ Place du Parc, H2W 2N9.

Association communautaire homosexuelle de l'Université de Montréal (ACHUM). a/s FAECUM, Pavillon des sciences sociales, 3200, Jean-Brillant, H3T 1N8. 343-5988.

Association des lesbiennes et gais de l'Université de Québec à Montréal (ALGU-QAM). CP 8888, Succ A, H3C 3P8.

Association des pères gais de Montréal. CP 667, Succ N, H2X 3M4. 932-0061.

Association des ressources Montréalaises sur le SIDA. CP 1164, Succ H, H3G 1L1.

Association homophile de Montréal/Gay Montreal Association (AHM/GMA). CP 1164, Succ H, H3G 2N1. 933-2395. Services et filiales: Alpha Kira (fraternité en alternative aux bars), MARC/ARMS, Gay Info, Parents et familles de gai-e-s, Travestis à Montréal.

Association pour les droits des gais du Québec (ADGQ). CP 29, succ C, H2L 4J7. Office: 263 est rue Ste-Catherine. 843-8671. Mon-Fri, 7-10pm..

Association des bonnes gens sourdes. CP 764, succ R, H2J 3M4.

Atelier de théâtre gai. Cegep Rosemont, 6400 16e Ave, local A-418 (Michel Breton).

Aube-épine, librairie des femmes, 4050, St-André, 524-9890.

Les capables, groupe d'appui pour bisexuels; CP 966, Succ H, H3G 2M9. 933-2395.

Clinique lesbienne, centre de santé des femmes du quartier, 16, est St-Joseph, H2T 1G8; 842-8903.

Le Collectif du triangle rose, a/s Librairie l'Androgynie, 3642 boul St-Laurent, H2X 2V4. 842-4765.

La coalition (formerly RAGLAM). Box 936, Stn H, H3G 5M9.

Com'femme. loisirs, lesbiennes seulement; 277-2464.

Comité des gais et lesbiennes de Montmorency (CGLM). 475 boulevard de l'Avenir, Laval, H7N 5H9.

Comité gai-e du Cégep du Vieux-Montréal. 255 est, Ontario, H2X 3M8. Mon, 6 pm.

Communauté homophile chrétienne, Centre Newman, 3484 rue Peel, H3A 1W8. 382-8467. For Catholics.

Contact-t-nous. 861-6753. Venereal disease treatment.

Côte à Côte, gay couples group. c/o Gay Info.

Counselling-ADGQ. travailleur social au local les mardi, jeudi et vendredi, 843-8671 pour rendez-vous.

Croissante. Groupe de mères lesbiennes. CP 222, Succ Delormier, H2H 2N6. Carole. 524-1040 (lundi).

Dignity Montréal Dignité. Newman Centre, 3484 Peel St, 392-6711. Mailing: Box 1045, Stn H, Montréal. For gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Mon 7:30pm.

Divan-jasseur. Café-rencontre, informations et références. 263 Ste-Catherine est, 2 étage. 843-8671.

Eglise communautaire métropolitaine Montréal (MCC). CP 619, Tour de la Bourse, H4Z 1J8. 525-7109 (Réal Murray, pasteur).

L'envol, réunion AA pour femmes seulement; 454, est Laurier (dimanche matin, 11h).

Fédération canadienne des transsexuels pour le Québec, 16 rue Viau, Vaudreuil J7V 1A7.

Fédération pour l'avancement de la condition transsexuelle (FACT). a/s Ms Fisher, CP 293, Côte-des-Neiges, H3S 2S6.

Femmes gaies de McGill. 3480, rue McTavish, H3A 1X9. 392-8920.

Friends of Affirm, gais et lesbiennes de l'Eglise Unie, 3521, University, H3A 2A9. 933-2395 (Gay Info).

Gai écoute (hommes), 7 days/week, 7-11 pm. 521-1508.

Gay Fathers of Montreal, c/o Gay Info.

Gay Health Clinic, Montreal Youth Clinic/Clinique des Jeunes de Montréal, 3465 Peel Street, H3A 1X1. 842-8576.

General practice, Mon-Fri, 9-5 pm; open until 8 pm Mon & Fri only. Closed daily 12:30-1:30 pm.

Gay Info, CP 1164, succ H, H3G 2N1. 933-2395, Thurs-Sat, 7-10:30 pm. Recorded message other times. Counselling and information.

Gay Physicians of Montréal/Les médecins gai(e)s de Montréal, a/s 2151, rue Lincoln, N° 20, H2H 1J2.

Gay and lesbian Social Services, 5 rue Weredale Plk, Westmount H3Z 1Y5. 937-9581.

Gayline. 931-8668. Info and counselling for gays and lesbians.

Gays and Lesbians of McGill (GALOM). 3480, McTavish, local 417, H3A 1X9. 392-8912.

Le Goeland (AA). 4652 rue Jeanne-Mance, 728-3228. For lesbian and gay alcoholics.

Groupe de discussion du mercredi. 5 Weredale Park, 6 étage, Westmount, H3Z 1Y5.

Identification, réunion AA, pour femmes seulement, 454, est Laurier (vendredi, 20h30).

Integrity: Gay Anglicans and their friends. Box 562, Verdun H4G 3F4. 766-9623.

Jeunesse Lambda Youth, Coming out and discussion group for gays, lesbians and bisexuals up to 22. Meets at the Yellow Door, 3524 Aylmer, Fri 8-10 pm. CP 572, Succ VMR, Ville Mont-Royal H3P 3C5.

For more info, call Gay Info.

La clé d'or. Alcooliques anonymes pour gais. 1435 City Counsellors.

La coalition. Groupe de gais et lesbiennes de Montréal. CP 936, Succ H, H3G 2M9.

Comité des gais et lesbiennes de Montmorency (CGLM). 475 boulevard de l'Avenir, Laval, H7N 5H9.

Comité gai-e du Cégep du Vieux-Montréal. 255 est, Ontario, H2X 3M8. Mon, 6 pm.

Communauté homophile chrétienne, Centre Newman, 3484 rue Peel, H3A 1W8. 382-8467. For Catholics.

Contact-t-nous. 861-6753. Venereal disease treatment.

Côte à Côte, gay couples group. c/o Gay Info.

Counselling-ADGQ. travailleur social au local les mardi, jeudi et vendredi, 843-8671 pour rendez-vous.

Croissante. Groupe de mères lesbiennes. CP 222, Succ Delormier, H2H 2N6. Carole. 524-1040 (lundi).

Dignity Montréal Dignité. Newman Centre, 3484 Peel St, 392-6711. Mailing: Box 1045, Stn H, Montréal. For gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Mon 7:30pm.

Divan-jasseur. Café-rencontre, informations et références. 263 Ste-Catherine est, 2 étage. 843-8671.

Eglise communautaire métropolitaine Montréal (MCC). CP 619, Tour de la Bourse, H4Z 1J8. 525-7109 (Réal Murray, pasteur).

L'envol, réunion AA pour femmes seulement; 454, est Laurier (dimanche matin, 11h).

Fédération canadienne des transsexuels pour le Québec, 16 rue Viau, Vaudreuil J7V 1A7.

Fédération pour l'avancement de la condition transsexuelle (FACT). a/s Ms Fisher, CP 293, Côte-des-Neiges, H3S 2S6.

Femmes gaies de McGill. 3480, rue McTavish, H3A 1X9. 392-8920.

Friends of Affirm, gais et lesbiennes de l'Eglise Unie, 3521, University, H3A 2A9. 933-2395 (Gay Info).

Gai écoute (hommes), 7 days/week, 7-11 pm. 521-1508.

Gay Fathers of Montreal, c/o Gay Info.

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General practice, Mon-Fri, 9-5 pm; open until 8 pm Mon & Fri only. Closed daily 12:30-1:30 pm.

Gay Info, CP 1164, succ H, H3G 2N1. 933-2395, Thurs-Sat, 7-10:30 pm. Recorded message other times. Counselling and information.

United Church Gays and Lesbians in Québec/Les Gais et Lesbiennes de l'Eglise Unie au Québec, c/o United Theological College, 3521 University St, H3A 2A9. 392-6711.

Vive Gai(e) (AA). St Jean Anglican Church, 110, est Ste Catherine, H2X 1Z6. 733-0757.

Quebec

Area code: 418

Entre-plumes, service de correspondance pour lesbiennes. CP 9962, Ste-Foy, G1V 4C5 (envoyer une enveloppe-retour affranchie).

Groupe de discussion du mercredi. 5 Weredale Park, 6 étage, Westmount, H3Z 1Y5.

Identification, réunion AA, pour femmes seulement, 454, est Laurier (vendredi, 20h30).

Integrity: Gay Anglicans and their friends. Box 562, Verdun H4G 3F4. 766-9623.

Relais d'espérance, accueil et aide spirituelle. 617 Montmartre, GIN 1B3. 522-3301.

Rouyn

Area code: 819

RAHCAT, Collège de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, CP 1500, J9X 5B5

Sherbrooke

Area code: 819

L'Association des gais et lesbiennes de l'Université de Sherbrooke, 2500 Université, Centre social, JIK 2R1.

L'Association pour l'épanouissement de la communauté gaie de l'Estrie (ACGE). CP 294, JIH 5J1. 596-0147.

L'Association pour l'épanouissement de la communauté gaie de l'Estrie (ACGE). CP 294, JIH 5J1. 596-0147.

Centre de renseignements et d'intervention en homosexualité (LASCAR), 522-7098 (Yvon).</p

NZ decriminalizes gay sex

More than a year after it was introduced, New Zealand lesbians and gay men get to celebrate the passage of a homosexual law reform bill.

After sixteen months of bitter and rancorous debate, New Zealand's Homosexual Law Reform Bill passed its third and final reading July 9.

Parliament and the visitors' galleries exploded into cheers, stomping and loud applause as Fran Wilde's long-delayed private member's bill passed with an absolute majority of 49 votes to 44. Wilde said she was exhausted, but, "Pleased all over that we've won." "It's very satisfying that I've been able to steer through with the help of a lot of other people, an issue which means so much personally to so many people."

Wilde's bill almost ran aground on the issue of age of consent. The bill established 16 years as the equal age of consent for men and women and for gay and straight sex. On July 2, when it appeared that there would not be enough votes to pass the legislation, the bill was almost referred back a stage so that consideration could be given to amending the age of consent for homosexual activity to 18 years.

The gay community strongly opposed any distinction in the age of consent between gay and straight sex. Three reform bills which did not propose equality have been torpedoed by the community over the last seven years. The Wellington Gay Task Force published a large ad in the capital's morning paper July 2 denouncing attempts to further water down the bill. The bill had already been excised of provisions which would have given gay people human rights pro-



Sponsor of the bill: Fran Wilde (centre) helps blow out the candles on 1985's Pride Day cake — over a year before the real celebration would begin

tection, and a proviso had been added exempting the armed forces.

Opponents of the bill had been active since Wilde introduced the legislation in March 1985. One high-profile attempt to stir up homophobia was a petition opposing law reform, circulated by the Salvation Army, which gathered 83,000 signatures. Previous to the reform all male homosexual activity in New Zealand was illegal.

Public response to the debate finally shifted in favour of gay rights. The last poll before the vote showed 64 percent of New Zealanders supported decriminalization and a majority were in favour

of equal age of consent. Ironically, the issue of AIDS prevention was critical in swinging several wavering MPs to support reform. Professor John Scott, of the Department of Medicine at Auckland University, argued that a high age of consent for gays would force gay teenagers underground and increase the potential for the spread of AIDS.

As gay people were celebrating their long-delayed victory in parties across the country, the homophobes were vowing to continue the fight against the legislation. MP Norm Jones, a "self-confessed bigot," pledged he would have the measure repealed. He said every MP would be asked

if they would be prepared to repeal the legislation during the next election. Another opponent, MP Graeme Lee, threatened repeal, "by another bill, another petition and through the ballot box."

Wilde discounted those threats. "People keep saying they'll make it an election issue but I remember them saying they'd make other issues election issues but nothing ever came of those.... People will find out it's not the end of western civilization and for most people the new law will have no effect whatsoever." •

US sodomy ruling condemned

Angry activists promise to break the law, while careful lawyers vow to change it.

Lesbians and gay men took to the streets to protest, while lesbian and gay rights lawyers met to plan a course of legal action, in response to the US Supreme Court's decision in Hardwick versus Bowers upholding the Georgia statute criminalizing sodomy (see TBP August 1986).

Thousands of lesbians and gay men marched in New York City, staging two sit-downs and blocking traffic for hours. In Washington DC, a group of protesters surrounded the Supreme Court, while in San Francisco a crowd turned out to "greet" Justice Sandra Day O'Connor during her July 17 visit to the bay city. The march grew to four thousand people as it gained momentum with chants of "Out of the bars and into the streets."

The attitude around the country was well-stated by one man in Texas: "I've been illegal all this time, and I'm not going to stop now. Nobody's going to tell me what I can do in my bedroom."

The response of lesbian and gay rights lawyers was more restrained. Evan Wolfson, author of Lambda Legal Defense's amicus brief, commented to TBP: "The question is not what Michael Hardwick was doing in his bedroom; the question is what the government was doing in his bedroom. But the Court never seriously addressed that fundamental question. Instead, (the Court majority) chose to lash out with their personal prejudices against a major segment of the US population. The Court is behind the American public which has a far better understanding of the basic right of freedom and privacy, and the basic principles of limited government, than the Court, as shown in the Newsweek poll."

Wolfson was referring to a Gallup poll conducted for Newsweek magazine which found that 47 percent disapproved of the decision, while only 41 percent approved. Fifty-seven percent stated that they thought states should not have the right to prohibit sexual practices conducted in

private between consenting adults of the same sex.

Lesbian and gay rights organizations now plan to mount campaigns to have state legislatures repeal existing state statutes and to challenge laws prohibiting same-sex sexual activity in state courts. The Ad Hoc Task Force to Challenge Sodomy Laws met in New York City July 18 and 19 to discuss future strategy. A challenge to Nevada's sodomy statute, which provides for up to 20 years imprisonment for consensual sodomy, is already underway. However, in Missouri the state supreme court recently upheld that state's sodomy statute, citing the Hardwick decision.

A national conference on sodomy law is planned for early winter. •

Sodomy ruling leaves
sexual protection
in current uncertainty

Although the Hardwick decision is clearly a set-back for the lesbian and gay rights movement, it may well also have its positive effects. Just as the now discredited campaign of Anita Bryant mobilized the lesbian and gay movement and its straight supporters, so too may this decision of the US Supreme Court. The fallout clearly has helped to contribute to one of the objectives of lesbian and gay rights litigation: to increase public awareness of issues of importance to the lesbian and gay community.

The issue presented in the Hardwick case — the right of adults to their private sexual lives without government interference, even if it includes persons of the same sex — became a topic of conversation and discussion in the major news media. A Newsweek Poll found that more than 73 percent of the people interviewed were aware of the decision. (Remarkable considering that Americans are not

thought to be particularly well-informed.) Even more remarkable is that a majority of Americans disapproved of the decision.

But what impact does this decision have on state criminal laws? (Criminal law in the US varies from state to state.) It has no direct impact in those 23 states where the legislature has repealed sodomy statutes, nor in the three states where state supreme courts have struck down sodomy statutes as violating state and US Constitutional guarantees of privacy and equal protection of the laws. This decision only holds that the right of privacy in the US

ture' and 'a crime not fit to be named.' Judges may now look to the Supreme Court for support when making anti-gay rulings, such as denying custody to lesbian mothers and gay fathers.

The Hardwick case is the first time the Supreme Court has attempted to directly deal with the issue of lesbian and gay rights. The Court has a history of refusing certiorari applications (leave to appeal) in cases concerning lesbian and gay rights. At least the Court allowed this case to be presented to it. The Oral Argument was noteworthy for the lack of hostile comments from the justices, as contrasted with the previous lesbian and gay rights case the Court has heard. (The NGTF case where the Court affirmed, without a written opinion, the Court of Appeals decision striking down an Oklahoma state statute which prohibited school teachers from discussing homosexuality.) And, now there are four justices who have gone on record as supporting equal rights for gay/lesbian people.

The issue has not been settled. The Court left open the question as to whether sodomy statutes which apply only to same-sex sexual activity would prohibit the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the laws. (But the Court refused to hear that case, Baker versus Wade.) This is important for Canadian courts to understand, as they often, since the adoption of the Charter, look to American courts for guidance on interpretation of constitutional guarantees of fundamental rights. This decision has no relevance for the interpretation of s.15 of the Charter. The Hardwick decision only applies to the 'right of privacy.'

Efforts in the US to achieve equal rights for lesbian and gay people will continue, in city council chambers where ordinances to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation will be debated, in state legislative halls where legislation to provide protection against discrimination against persons with a positive HIV antibody test will be considered, and in courtrooms where arguments of equal protection of the law for lesbian and gay people will perhaps find a more sympathetic ear. And, this decision might just act as a catalyst, radicalizing those members of the lesbian and gay community who don't see the movement for lesbian and gay rights as being particularly significant to them personally, and get them off their buns. *Charles Phillips*

Hand of Liberty? Italians protest.

Bill of Rights does not include the right to engage in sexual acts between consenting adults in the privacy of one's home. It does not criminalize same-sex sexual activity, nor does it prohibit the 24 states that still have sodomy statutes "on the books" from repealing them. It does not affect the laws in the states that have repealed their sodomy statutes. It does not prevent state supreme courts from striking down sodomy statutes as a violation of state constitutions, nor does it prevent state or federal courts from striking down sodomy statutes as a violation of the right to equal protection of the laws, or a violation of the Eighth Amendment (prohibiting "cruel and unusual punishment").

As such, the case is not so damaging for its legal impact as for its "moral" impact, its encouragement of gay-bashing, and for its virulent anti-gay comments, especially retiring Chief Justice Burger's treatise on the "ancient roots" of the proscriptions against "the crime against nature, ...an offense of 'deeper malignity' than rape, a heinous act 'the very nature of which is a disgrace to human na-

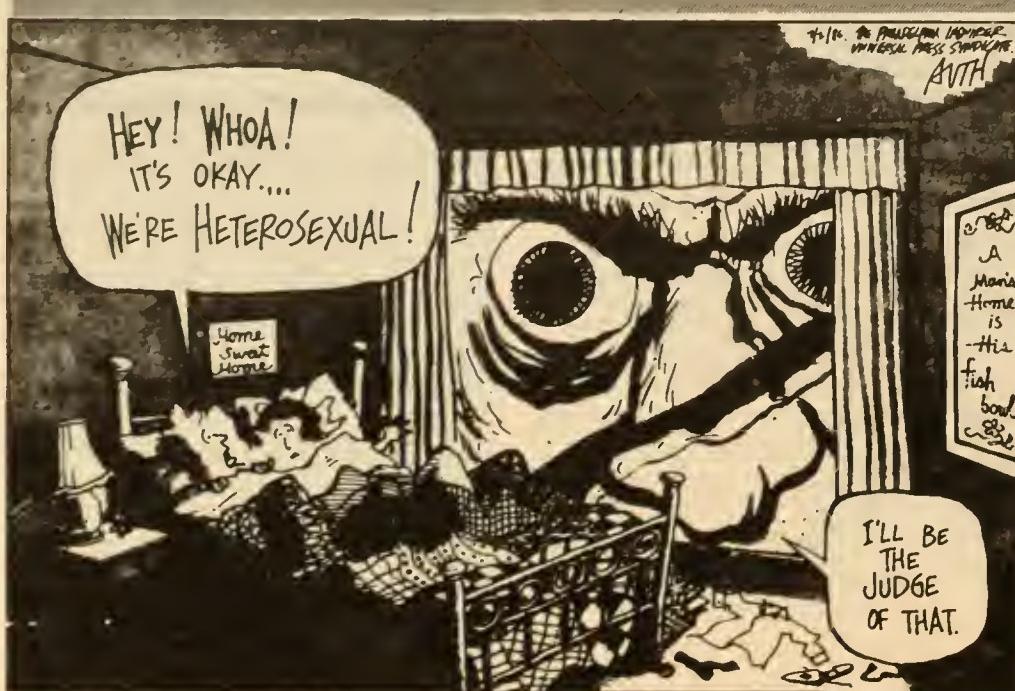
photo: courtesy Battaglia

ture' and 'a crime not fit to be named.' Judges may now look to the Supreme Court for support when making anti-gay rulings, such as denying custody to lesbian mothers and gay fathers.

The Hardwick case is the first time the Supreme Court has attempted to directly deal with the issue of lesbian and gay rights. The Court has a history of refusing certiorari applications (leave to appeal) in cases concerning lesbian and gay rights. At least the Court allowed this case to be presented to it. The Oral Argument was noteworthy for the lack of hostile comments from the justices, as contrasted with the previous lesbian and gay rights case the Court has heard. (The NGTF case where the Court affirmed, without a written opinion, the Court of Appeals decision striking down an Oklahoma state statute which prohibited school teachers from discussing homosexuality.) And, now there are four justices who have gone on record as supporting equal rights for gay/lesbian people.

The issue has not been settled. The Court left open the question as to whether sodomy statutes which apply only to same-sex sexual activity would prohibit the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the laws. (But the Court refused to hear that case, Baker versus Wade.) This is important for Canadian courts to understand, as they often, since the adoption of the Charter, look to American courts for guidance on interpretation of constitutional guarantees of fundamental rights. This decision has no relevance for the interpretation of s.15 of the Charter. The Hardwick decision only applies to the 'right of privacy.'

Efforts in the US to achieve equal rights for lesbian and gay people will continue, in city council chambers where ordinances to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation will be debated, in state legislative halls where legislation to provide protection against discrimination against persons with a positive HIV antibody test will be considered, and in courtrooms where arguments of equal protection of the law for lesbian and gay people will perhaps find a more sympathetic ear. And, this decision might just act as a catalyst, radicalizing those members of the lesbian and gay community who don't see the movement for lesbian and gay rights as being particularly significant to them personally, and get them off their buns. *Charles Phillips*



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World AIDS developments

Conferences, research, name changes, funding cuts and legal charges

PARIS — Nearly 3,500 researchers, health-care professionals and health educators attended a three-day international conference on AIDS here, at the end of June, and — although there were a few glimmers of hope for treatment — in Africa and the west the syndrome continues to spread.

One of the best pieces of news was a report by Anthony Fauci, of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, that, for the first time, a person with an AIDS-damaged immune system had apparently returned to normal health. The treatment involved a combination of a bone marrow transplant, transfusions of lymphocytes and an anti-viral drug. Unfortunately bone marrow transplants are extremely difficult, due to the need for close tissue matches between donors and recipients.

Samuel Broder, of the US National Cancer Institute, reported preliminary success with the experimental drug AZT. The first evaluation of AZT trials will take place in August and results will likely be published in October. The AZT tests are taking place with patients who have full-blown AIDS and, although many doctors feel that it may be too late to do much for such cases, Broder remains optimistic. "I believe AIDS itself is a curable disease," he told the conference.

Conference organizers have planned next year's meeting for Washington DC. The 1988 meeting will be held in Stockholm; 1989's will be in Montreal.

Researchers around the world have also agreed on a name change for the virus which is believed

Council. The conference opened with a plea from NCBLG Executive Director Gil Gerald for the black community to become more aware of the disproportionate threat of AIDS to black men, women and children. Gerald called on his listeners to become actively involved in education and service work. While blacks make up 12 percent of the US population, 25 percent of all Americans with AIDS are black.

American scientists have noted a drop in Kaposi's Sarcoma among AIDS cases. Kaposi's was identified in 34 percent of AIDS cases in 1981 but presently accounts for only 14 percent of cases. Some health-care workers attribute this change to a decline in the use of Nitrate drugs (poppers) among gay men. Several studies have implicated poppers as a possible co-factor in the development of AIDS and indicated a correlation between the use of poppers and the development of Kaposi's among AIDS patients.

California Governor George Deukmejian slashed \$20 million off the state's AIDS budget at the end of June. The cuts wiped out the entire \$3 million budget for alternative drug therapies. The governor said the therapies may not be "medically necessary." Other hard-hit areas were safe-sex education, home health-care and research. Last year, the governor faced stiff resistance when he vetoed \$11 million from the AIDS budget and almost half the money was subsequently restored. Even with the cuts, the 1986-87 budget is \$28.8 million compared to \$16.5 million in 1985-86.

A court order requiring a gay father to take an HIV-antibody test before he could receive visits from his children has been thrown out by a Chicago judge. Although the family-court hearing continues, the onus of proof that the test is necessary now falls on the mother who has been fighting her husband's visitation rights. "It will be extremely difficult for them to find credible medical experts to testify on their behalf," said Benjamin Schatz, director of the National Gay Rights Advocates' AIDS Civil Rights Project.

Petty Officer Second Class Phillip J Nolan has been sentenced to 45 days in the brig for refusing to take an HIV-antibody test. The sailor will also receive a bad conduct discharge. Nolan's military attorney plans to appeal the sentence. The antibody test is mandatory for all 2.2 million members of the US armed forces.

Finally, a Flint, Michigan judge has thrown out a charge of attempted murder against John C Richards for spitting on police officers. Richards spit on the officers when they tried to arrest him and then shouted, "I have AIDS and you're all dead." Richards is apparently infected with HIV. The 28-year-old man will be tried on a second charge of obstructing a police officer. ●

Danish experience inspires IGA meet

COPENHAGEN — More than 100 delegates from 35 countries met at the eighth annual conference of the International Gay Association, July 7 to 12, at which the IGA officially changed its name to International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA).

The conference, held at the town of Horsholm,

30 kilometers north of Copenhagen, was opened by Copenhagen Mayor of Culture Tom Ahlberg. The Danish gay group which hosted the conference has been working to fight anti-gay prejudice since its creation 38 years ago. One of the movement's founders, Axel Axgil, set the tone of the ILGA meeting with a moving speech about the efforts of the community to organize, from the 1940s to the present.

As usual much energy was spent in administrative wrangles. The organization's constitution is vague about voting procedures and a number of new questions arise every year. Since policy decisions can only be made at the ILGA's yearly conferences, those discussions are often rancorous.

An organizational breakthrough made at the Copenhagen conference was the establishment of posts for two Secretary Generals, who will work to coordinate ILGA activities between conferences. Until now, implementation of decisions was left to member organizations and the far-flung secretariats which have often experienced difficulties carrying out their tasks. For example, at the 1985 conference in Toronto, Montreal's ADGLQ assumed responsibility for the IGA Action Secretariat, but the Montreal group's internal difficulties mean that this secretariat has not functioned for the past year.

The Financial Secretariat reported a continued worsening of ILGA's economic situation. The group has now used up all of the surplus built up before 1982, and the fall of the Danish Kroner

against the US dollar has also undermined the organization's finances.

On a more positive note, the conference accepted resolutions from Peru's MHOL improving contact with Latin American groups. MHOL will be translating all ILGA documents into Spanish and will distribute them to potential member groups in Latin America. It was also announced that the Dutch government had granted \$40,000 to support development with lesbian organizations in the third world.

Perhaps this year's most controversial issue was the membership of the Gay Association of South Africa (GASA). The Scottish Homosexual Rights Group asked the conference to suspend GASA's membership because the group has failed to work openly against apartheid, and for its failure to support Simon Nkodi, a gay black man and GASA member who is presently imprisoned and standing trial for anti-apartheid activities. While officially interracial, GASA's membership is largely white.

GASA maintained its membership mainly as a result of a personal plea by Nkodi and skilful lobbying by GASA delegate Kevin Botha. The ILGA reiterated its opposition to Apartheid and will circulate a petition gathering support for peaceful resolution to the situation. ILGA also agreed to accept the Rand Gay Organization as a member. This group, recently formed in the Johannesburg region, is predominantly black. ●

Meetings address racism

Blacks and Jews held important conferences in the US this summer

NEW YORK — Two conferences celebrating the diversity of the international lesbian and gay communities were held in the US over the July 4th holiday.

In New York, the National Association of Black and White Men Together (BWMT) held its annual convention, with more than 200 delegates, including representatives from England, Brazil and Canada. The conference was opened by black gay civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin and had as its backdrop the extravagant centenary celebrations for the Statue of Liberty.

"One of the most impressive aspects of the conference was the participation of women," said Canadian panelist Richard Fung. "Although BWMT is an all-male organization, they made a successful effort to officially organize the presence of women into their meetings and to hear feminist viewpoints." Joan Nestle, of the Lesbian Herstory Archives; Virginia Apuzzo, formerly of the National Gay Task Force; Amber Hollibaugh, lesbian writer and activist; Barbara

Smith, of Kitchen Table; Women of Colour Press; and others addressed the convention.

BWMT also awarded a Special Achievement Award to Simon Nkodi, a black gay activist presently imprisoned in South Africa for anti-apartheid activities. The gathering was organized by New York's Men of All Colors Together.

In Boston, members of the World Congress of Lesbian and Gay Jews held their annual meeting, hosted by the Boston group An Tikva. Delegates from the US, Holland and England attended workshops, plenaries and — at the invitation of a local reform temple — a Shabbat service. The opening reception was held at city hall, with an official welcome from the mayor.

The conference made plans to do outreach to 10,000 synagogues and traditional Jewish organizations and discussed the formation of a national Jewish AIDS foundation. Next year's congress will be held in Amsterdam with a \$25,000 grant from the Dutch government. ●

gian debauchery laws which was published in 1985.

The two were acquitted of all charges in May 1985 and the baths were reopened but the verdict was overturned by an appeal court early in 1986. The homophobic ruling of the Brussels appeal court declared that homosexuality was a "danger to humanity."

The May 7 Cassation Court decision overturned the appeal court verdict on a technicality, but the ruling was considered a victory since a new trial will reopen the fundamental issue of whether gay baths are acceptable in Belgium. ●



Gil Gerald: Director of NCBLG

to cause AIDS and was called LAV by the French and HTLV-III by the Americans. The new name will be Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). All medical and scientific journals have been formally requested to use this name. Alone in resisting the change is the US government which claims legal title to the virus HTLV-III for doctors Gallo and Essex and their private corporations.

Another conference, focusing on AIDS and the black community, was held in Washington DC on July 18. Over 400 educators, health and community workers attended the gathering which was sponsored by the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, the National Conference of Black Mayors and the National Minority AIDS

Retrial ordered in Macho baths case

BRUSSELS — The Macho Saunas prosecution took another turn, May 7, with a Court of Cassation decision ordering a new trial in the two-year-old case against Michel Vincineau and Rudy Haenen.

Vincineau and Haenen were charged with keeping a house of debauchery after raids on the Macho 1 Sauna in Antwerp and Macho 2 in Brussels, in March 1984. The two were immediately imprisoned and not released until strong pressure was mounted by Belgian gay and civil-liberties groups. Vincineau, a university professor, used his time in jail to write a book on Bel-

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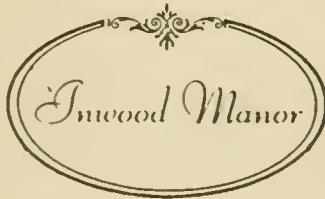
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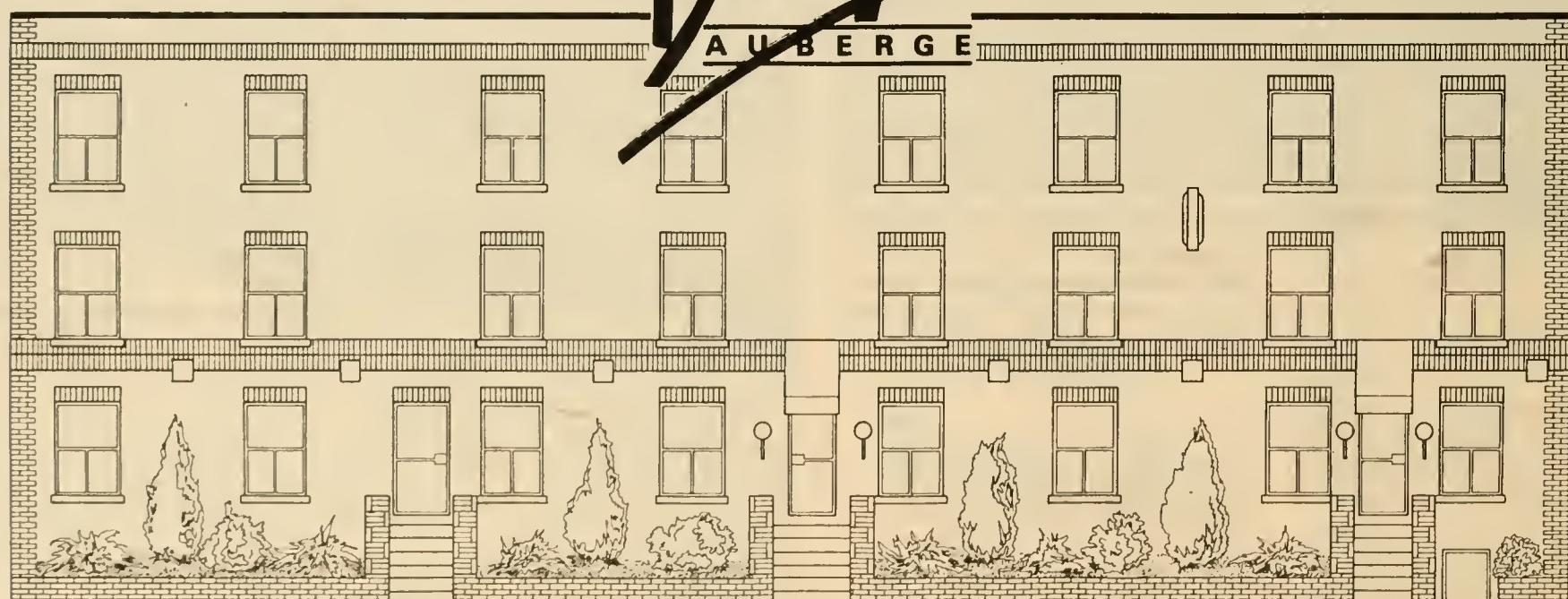
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Opinion favours rights

California A-G says law already forbids anti-gay discrimination

CALIFORNIA — Attorney General John Van de Kamp has issued a formal Opinion that existing California legislation prohibits private employers from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. The Opinion was based on interpretation of California Labor Code sections 1101 and 1102, which prohibit employers from interfering with the political activities of their employees. Although it is not binding on a California court, the Opinion would be very persuasive as an official interpretation of a statute.

In the 1979 California State Supreme Court decision *Gay Law Students Association versus Pacific Telephone and Telegraph*, the court held "political activities" protected by Sections 1101 and 1102 were not limited to those on behalf of political parties, but included other forms of political activity such as litigation, the wearing of symbolic armbands, or association with others for the advancement of beliefs and ideas. The court also found that open self-identification of one's sexual orientation is a political act, stating:

A principal barrier to homosexual equality is the common feeling that homosexuality is an affliction which the homosexual worker must conceal from his employer and his fellow workers. Consequently one important aspect of the struggle for equal rights is to induce homosexual individuals to 'come out of the closet,' acknowledge their sexual preferences, and

ANC rights policy favours protection

JOHANNESBURG — The African National Congress, South Africa's major opposition force, will likely assure the freedom of lesbians and gay men in any future ANC government, according to the South African gay magazine *Exit*.

The question of gay rights was raised during a recent meeting in Lusaka between the ANC and representatives of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS). According to NUSAS representative Claire Wright, the ANC said it had no official policy on gay rights per se but, "that in any bill of rights — and in terms of the Freedom Charter — the rights of gays as individuals will be protected."

The Freedom Charter was adopted in 1955 and outlines a series of policies guaranteeing rights and freedoms and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion and sex.

"If the ANC applies the Freedom Charter to the letter, it seems that gays have little to fear from the liberation movement — especially if gays as a group are prepared, in turn, to acknowledge and defend the rights of other oppressed groups," said *Exit* reporter Jimmy Beaumont.

The *Exit* article compared ANC policy to that of the ruling National Party. The 1969 Immorality Act states, "A male person who commits with another male person, at a party, any act which is calculated to stimulate sexual passion, or to give sexual gratification, shall be guilty of an offence." South African common law also proscribes homosexual acts within the broad and undefined category of "unnatural sexual offences," according to the Gay Association of South Africa.

Lesbians and gay men cannot join the South

to associate with others in working for equal rights.

The court in *Gay Law Students* did not address the issue of whether employees who were merely lesbians or gay men were protected to the same extent as those who openly identified themselves as homosexual, those who defend homosexuality, or those who are identified with lesbian and gay rights organizations.

The Attorney General answered that question by stating that it was his conclusion that, if the court was faced with the issue, it would rule that the law protected "undisclosed or suspected homosexuals" to the same extent as openly-identified homosexuals are protected.

Since the Legislature has banned discrimination against employees on the basis of their political views, activities and affiliations, and since the Supreme Court has defined self-identification of homosexual orientation as protected political action, the Supreme Court would also rule that a policy of discrimination against employees on the basis of beliefs as to their homosexual orientation is also prohibited by that legislation.

The California Supreme Court has also found that laws prohibiting discrimination in housing and public accommodations apply to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. ●

African military or police. National Party officials are notorious for anti-gay statements and the government is reportedly considering new regulations that would increase police powers against the gay community. ●

Anti-gay councilor unseated by Labour

RUGBY — Keith Judge, who spearheaded this English city's attempt to bar gay men and lesbians from municipal jobs in 1984, has lost his seat on the Borough Council.

The Council's attempt to ban gay people from council jobs was defeated after a national outcry and demonstration. Although many council members insisted that the proposed policy was not anti-gay, Judge was more frank, "I wouldn't employ a homosexual and I would sack one if I knew they were that way," he told a local paper.

Judge, an independent, had been a councilor for 16 years and had served as the city's mayor in 1980 and 1981. He was defeated by a Labour Party opponent. ●

CALM Californians confront the PANIC

SAN FRANCISCO — The campaign against the LaRouche Initiative, which would authorize quarantine of persons with a positive HIV-antibody test (see TBP August 1986), is building momentum as lesbian and gay rights activists organize a coordinated opposition.

Leading off the campaign to defeat the initia-

tive, Supervisor Harry Britt spoke to an enthusiastic crowd at a town hall meeting, stating: "The LaRouche people are really crazy. They are real zombies. For something they get out of this, they are willing to give up their ability to think, their ability to feel or understand anything but the gospel being handed down by the head zombie, Lyndon LaRouche. We have to let the world know that these people are truly dangerous."

In Berkeley, a group has adopted the name CALM — Campaign Against the LaRouche Measure — in response to the LaRouchians PANIC — Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee.

Requests for information about, or donations to the campaign may be sent to: No on 64 — Stop LaRouche, 130 Church St, San Francisco, CA 94114. ●

Defeat in Chicago, ground held in Seattle

CHICAGO — City council, in an 18 to 30 vote July 29, defeated a proposed ordinance which would have prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in private employment, housing and public accommodations.

The bill received widespread support from a cross-section of Chicago communities, including many religious leaders. Mayor Washington was firmly behind the proposal, but was unable to persuade a sufficient number of his council supporters in the face of vocal opposition by religious fundamentalists and the Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin.

Although the bill was first introduced in 1979, this is the first time it came up for a vote by the full council. Lesbian and gay rights groups are planning active participation in the upcoming February municipal elections, now that they know who their supporters are. ●

In Seattle, Washington an effort to repeal that city's ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation failed to garner enough signatures to place the measure on the ballot. "Not here!" was the response of the lesbian and gay community. ●

Vandals jeopardize future ILIS events

GENEVA — Organizers of the eighth conference of the International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS), held at the University of Geneva March 28-31, have issued a public statement condemning a group of women who wrecked the residences at the end of the conference.

More than 700 women attended the Geneva conference. For the first time, money was available to pay for travel costs of third world lesbians and lesbians of colour thanks to grants from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other sources. Conference delegates were housed free in Civil Protection Shelters (bomb shelters), made available by the City of Geneva.

On the last night of the conference, after the majority of delegates had left the city, a handful of women, claiming their activity was an anti-nuclear protest, wrecked one of the shelters causing \$10,000 damage. The ILIS is being held responsible for the damage and the budget for next

year's conference has been severely compromised. The organization will never again be able to rent space in Geneva.

"In other words by their miserable action these women compromised the entire lesbian movement," said the ILIS statement. ●

New groups targets of assassin squads

CALI — Right-wing death squads, which have been operating in this central Colombian city for the past two years, have expanded their activities to include assassinations of social undesirables such as homosexuals and beggars.

The death squads, which many believe are linked to the police, began their activities by killing suspected criminals but soon adopted anti-terrorist rhetoric and expanded their targets to include union leaders and left-wing political activists. Now the number of groups threatened has expanded again. More than 450 people have been murdered in the last six months, and gay people seem to be an important target. The groups, known by such names as "The Anonymous Avenger," "The Green Commandos," and "Implacable Justice," usually leave a note pinned to their victims' bodies claiming responsibility for their deaths.

Cali, Colombia's third largest city, was known for its pleasant climate and relaxed gay subculture. ●

Law will mean more police harassment

PARIS — Law-and-order forces in the new, right-wing government of Jacques Chirac have given police the green light to step up harassment of gay people, punks and Arab immigrants.

Both Robert Pandraud, Minister of Security, and Charles Pasqua, Minister of the Interior, are pushing for the creation of a new computer-linked identity card system and increased powers to police to make identity spot-checks and arrests on suspicion.

Police have already been descending on certain districts frequented by young people and gays, according to *Gay Times*, a London magazine. Cruising areas such as Les Halles, the Bois de Boulogne and the Trocadero have been especially hard hit. Pandraud has condemned "the coming of an age when wives betray their husbands before their eyes and homosexuals declare themselves proud to be queers."

The League of Human Rights has condemned the proposed laws, as have Catholic and Moslem leaders. ●

World News Credits

World News was compiled by Tim McCaskell and Charles Phillips from the following sources: New York Native (New York), Philadelphia Gay News (Philadelphia), The Washington Blade (Washington DC), TWN (Miami), Gay Community News (Boston), Bay Area Reporter (San Francisco), Gay Times (London), OUT (Auckland), ILIS Bulletin (Geneva), Montrose Voice (Montrose, Texas), Gavin Young (New Zealand).





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Homer called it "Hesperos, the most beautiful star set in the sky." Galileo called it "the mother of loves."

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How many hundreds of couples in the throws of l'amour has she looked down upon? She's fascinated us all for thousands of years. Millennia, in fact.

Few, certainly, will forget that historic afternoon in 2085 when we tore through her cloudy veil, and discovered that our "solar sibling" is populated!

And such a charming population too. Our explorers landed in midtown Mldnyplo to be greeted by dozens of Venusian office workers and shoppers waving their *grbrs* in delight. Who on Earth hasn't dreamed of spending a day with these intriguing creatures?

And they're making exactly that possible — opening tourist bureaus all over our planet! The welcome mat is out for everyone from eager second-honeymooners, to swingers after the ultimate date — a trip to the orb of *amor*.

Which brings us, oh planet-hopper of the

by John Allec
Illustrations by Tim Morley

Dedicated to P.E.



future, to this very moment, as your precocious correspondent prepares to torpedo into the yellow eye of our cosmic cousin. Brian Lannhead, the first reporter to visit Venus!

Indeed, peeking out my window, I see that this flying house of metal is about to dive into the misty sea below, on whose waves bounce prisms full of all the colours of the sun.

What awaits me, I wonder, somewhere under those rainbows of luminous clouds?

My only clue is clutched tightly in my fist. I take another look.

A ticket — for tonight — to what must be the universe's newest nightclub....

The Merry Go-Go Round!

Who knows? Maybe this is the scoop I've been waiting for ever since I decided I wanted to write very badly!

★ ★ ★ ★

I await my tour guide in the very centre of the new tourist complex, a cute parkette in front of the gigantic holiday hotel.

A huge circular park, the complex is crammed with gardens, rides, displays, info booths and, of course, souvenir stands. A pretty path winds from the foot of the hotel and circles it in an ever-widening spiral, until it reaches the grand outer loop where the Merry Go-Go Round — along with the various hetero-pavilions — is located.

Something shuffles up behind me.

"Mistr Lannlhd!"

Before I turn, I take a deep breath for my first encounter with a Venusian.

"Greetings!" squeaks the creature, rubbing one of his *grbrs* affectionately along my left leg. "I am Hbbh Hbbh, Ministr of Tourism fr our planet. It is my duty — and pleasure! — to act as yr host during yr visit."

His heavy eyebrow nudges up and down with

every few words. I recall that the Venusian eyebrow is the most expressive part of its body.

"May I call you Br'n? Do call me Hbbh! — Such unusual neighbors! And all of us 'children of the sun,' as our poets are putting it. Do you like yr room?"

"Oh yes — quite spoiled!"

"Do inform me of any problems. 'Only the best fr our guests,' you know! Shll we stroll?"

Hbbh ropes me tightly around the waist as we climb onto the path.

"As you cn see, Br'n, our preparations are not quite complete."

Now and then, indeed, we come across tubs half-filled with paint, and ladders and scaffolding lie about waiting to be taken away. Meanwhile, Hbbh's prickly *grbr* loops a second and third time around me until I am quite lassoed.

"Are you... um, married, Hbbh?"

"Ah...." The eyebrow wriggles like a snake. "Once I ws," he says. "My lovely Dlb Dlb...."

"You poor thing!"

He sighs, glancing shyly into my eyes. "You see, we'd been fighting ovr whose turn it was to *fmyp-vrnhk*."

"Oh."

"But! I neglect my duties. Do you like our little park, Br'n?"

Having neglected my (news-gathering) duties as well, I stop to look about. And am astonished.

"Hbbh... Words fail me!"

Around us are all sizes of undulating purple bushes. Elaborate winged things ricochet over our heads. In a pool that licks one edge of the path, roly-poly crimson animals — like big bowling balls on legs! — are playing, pushing each other down a waterfall....

And looming over us and all — taller than the hotel — is a gargantuan, bright-green tree.

"A zoological touch, you know?" Hbbh explains. "We know you Earthlings enjoy this sort of thing. So our engineers dug out the records of our former life-forms, and worked countless *tmtks* to

reconstruct it all in exact detail!"

"Wow!"

Everyone realizes how thoroughly the Venusians have found substitutes to Mom Nature for everything from food to fashion to fun. Their genius for technology surpasses ours, unquestionably. But I'm not prepared for this! Every plant and animal, every gallop and crawl and hover and dive — mechanical?

"Look, Br'n — a *fndwl*!"

Of all things! Wheeling past us is a small — riderless — tricycle.

But a tricycle, here on Venus?

"*Splntzj dggh-dggh!*" Hbbh commands, and the thing promptly detours and rolls toward us.

It cuddles against Hbbh's forelegs and stares up at me. Yes — stares, from big headlight eyes on its handlebar horns. It has a few parts you'd never find on a trike, but otherwise the idea's exactly the same.

"It's so cute" I exclaim. "I just can't believe it's a machine, though..."

"Ooh," Hbbh chortles, "but it is, Br'n! And an ideal pet by the way — trn it on when you want some compny, trn it off when you don't. We think it will sell well. But — please! — accept this one as a gift frm our people."

Well! Won't that make everybody back home suck socks!

"This, however, is my favourite," Hbbh says, with a flourish at the giant tree. "The *qwj* — once lord of the primordial forest! Do you wish to operate it?"

Wondering what he's up to, I follow him to the tower-like trunk. An aluminum crank juts from its side.

"Go ahead, Br'n!" Hbbh giggles, his eyebrow hopping.

I look up at the colossal branches rummaging lazily through the synthetic clouds, and take the crank in hand. After several turns I notice....

The plate-like leaves getting paler and paler — as if green blood is being siphoned from them.

Then, high above, one of the leaves deserting its branch, and rocking slowly down to us.

Another follows it, then another, and more and more — until it is quite pouring leaves!

A dozen twirls more and the tree is bare, its leafy gown undone and discarded around us.

"Don't stop yt!" cries Hbbh.

And above, as I resume cranking, sweating lightly —

corts me to the entrance and takes his leave.

A final look into my wrist-mirror and I'm ready. I grasp the horsey-shaped handles of the doors, pull them open, and let the *fndwl* roll in ahead of me.

Before I'm quite sure I'm in, I've grabbed the *fndwl* up in my arms so it won't bash into two dancers swirling madly by. I turn back — but behind me is a wall of shifting columns made of chrome, and no sign of the door. I turn around again.

It's like being inside a revolving globe made of mirrors, and as big as a barn!

Albino rays streak through the crowd, hit prisms set into the ceiling, the walls, the floors, and bounce back in slices of turquoise... tangerine.... Even the music seems to ricochet and shatter with the patterns of the lights.

Is this opening night? Hundreds of men are about, multiplied into thousands by the mirrors. A few interrupt their talking to look at me. Well, I think... but I suppose they've never seen a *fndwl* before. I decide to move to a less conspicuous spot.

The rotating floor is making me dizzy.... One empty table! I weave toward it through the crowd, casually snapping my fingers to the music.

Even the furniture is covered with chrome, and the table vanishes and reappears as I approach it. The *fndwl* pedals out of my arm onto one bench, and looks at me, perplexed, through a glass pot of strange silver flowers set on the table.

I keep my eyes out for gyrating Venusians. But instead, they are drawn to some eye-catching fellows talking importantly with each other on the other side of the dance-pit....

Now and then a head turns, a glance is aimed and shot.

I sprinkle a handful of looks their way.... Nonchalant, I smile a bit, run a finger smoothly down my jaw. And maybe I'll....

Gosh.

Please turn around again!

Gee....

How heart-throbbing can you get?

And he's... looking over here.

I suddenly think he might be noticing my gaping mouth. As slowly as possible, I draw it shut.

And try not to pull my eyes away.

Even when everyone between us slows their dancing and looks about, listening....

To the grinding of a cathedral organ taking

...I follow him to the tower-like trunk. An aluminum crank juts from its side. "Go ahead, Br'n!" Hbbh giggles, his eyebrow hopping.

Tiny buds of faint green spot the branches....

The tree seems polka-dotted with green dimes. Magically, caressed by the breeze, the dimes bloom into quarters, then half-dollars, then larger and larger and greener and greener....

Until a newly clad *qwj* waves its skirt merrily above us!

Hbbh shivers at my delighted applause, then pushes his face up to mine.

"The Mrry Go-Go Round awaits, Br'n! Shll we proceed?"

He beckons the *fndwl*. It hugs my ankles, and we continue our promenade through the wonderful wizardry on all sides.

★ ★ ★ ★

Declining an invitation to come along, Hbbh es-

over the music!

Conversations die, but for a whisper here and there.

Then, in the corner of my eye, I see.... The mirrors on the walls have disappeared, revealing, going round and round....

Wooden horses!

Ivory ones with reins of blue — sable ones with reins of pink — two by two, round and round, bouncing on ribboned maypoles.

And from a grand crescendo high above us, the organ cascades into ripples of bubbly merriment.

Near me, someone gasps.

"Terence! Let's... I think we're supposed to ride them!"

Others approach the horses with the same

idea. My beau's friends turn to him and find him preoccupied — with me! Smiling to each other, they mount a pair of stallions prancing by.

With most now bearing passengers, the horses speed their pace — Then a joyous whoop from the riders....

The horses have come to life!

And what I'm sure was a pillar in the middle of the room is now a great old tree, its branches reaching over the dance floor —

Which is now a little brook!

I gaze at him, standing alone on the other bank — as puzzled as I, and as unwilling to investigate. With lubricious intent, I narrow my eyelids.

He offers me a zany smile.

He takes off his boots, his velvet V-neck, his matching pants.

And jumps! Splashing amid licorice-black fish nosing their way through water-bluebells.

My eyes freed, I look anxiously about. Twilight has come. The cowboy cavalry gallops along the horizon. Two riderless steeds — ours? — graze nearby.

I look up — the tree's branches are honeycombed with holes, and the wind is blowing toots and tunes through the wood. Revolving, its branches so many pipes — our tree is a giant barrel organ!

He reaches the bank and climbs out, sputtering with laughter.

And stands there, a dizzying sunset spinning behind him.... I see that his eyes are a wild, fiery green....

As just above his head, furry little blossoms sprout on the tree's branches... and burst into fluffy white....

Why they're kittens!

How strange....

...He gives me... a watery wink.

And I think I'm going to... to... faint...!

★ ★ ★ ★

Oh! What's that noise???

I pull my eyes open.

The room is deserted. The mirrored walls are back in place. The music has stopped. And my *fndwl* is careening frantically around the table.

The noise, like a loud toy alarm, seems to come from — the flowerpot?

And where's he gone? Where's everybody gone?

I hear a tiny shout. "Mistr Lannlhd?!"

"Hello?"

I look closely at the flowers. Sure enough, there, on a miniature video screen set among the petals, is Hbbh!

"Oh! ...Greetings!"

He seems to be lounging on a pile of large balloons.

You Venusians really know how to throw a party, Hbbh! It was so weird and wonderful — but I think I fainted — and everybody's gone — and..." And....

"Yes, Br'n?"

"Listen, Hbbh, this fellow — maybe when I fainted he went for help — he's disappeared — along with everybody else — This really is the strangest nightclub I've ever been in!"

"...Nightclub, Br'n?"

"How do you do it?!"

Hbbh seems confused.

"Br'n.... Prhaps I should have explained! The Mrry Go-Go Round is not a club — it's...."

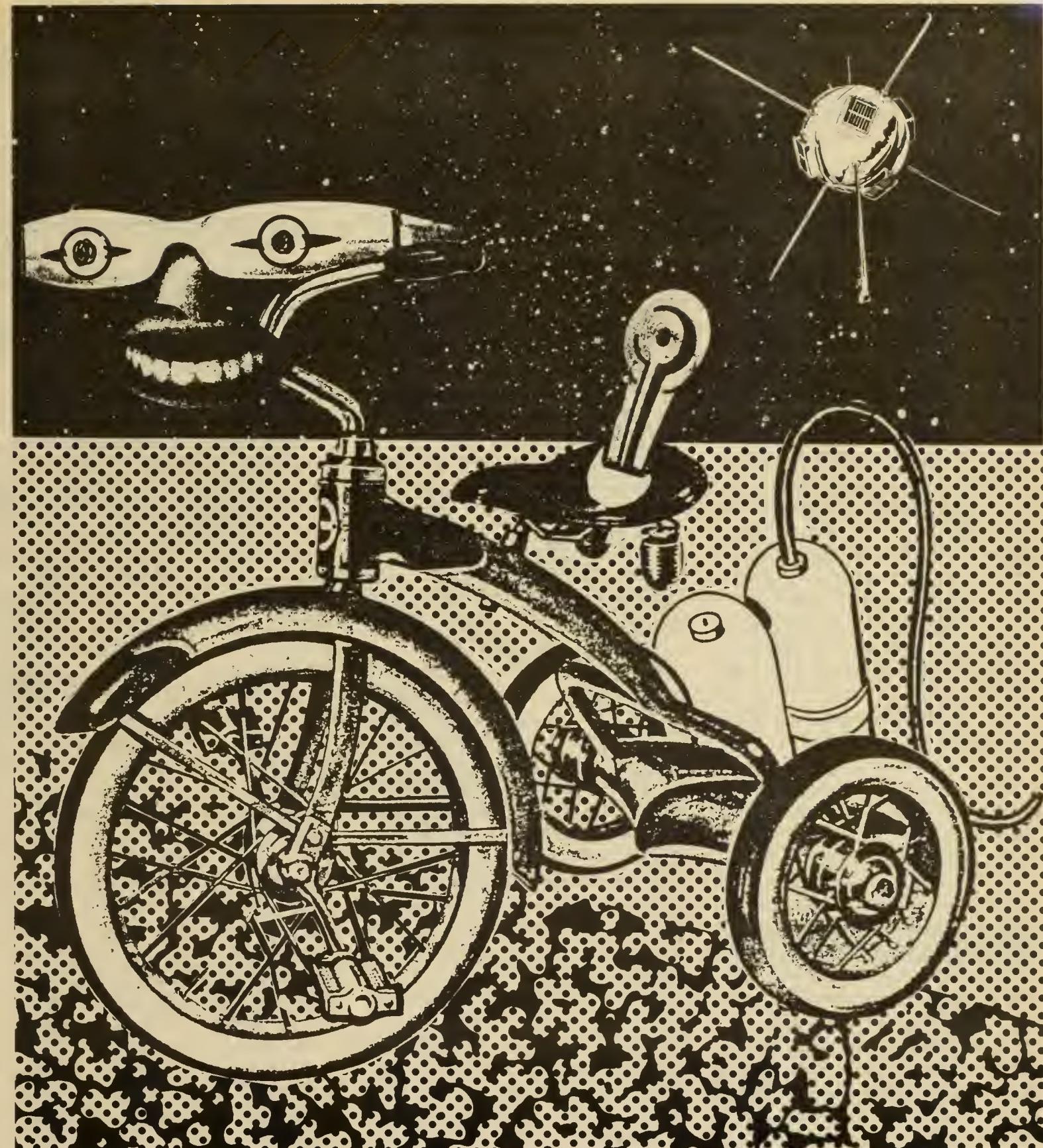
"Yes?"

"Now what is yr word.... Ah! A ride — an amusemnt ride!"

"You mean when the horses come out?"

"Not jst that, Br'n. Evrything — and everybody! An ingenious, if I may say so, developmnt of yr planet's hologram!"

"...."



"I'm tickled you were so struck with our leading man! You see, 'he' is a collection of *sevral* humans! A good pair of ears frm one, a nose frm another — 'Only the best fr our guests' you know!"

"Oh."

"Oops — I mst go now!" He reaches offscreen for something. "I shll meet you before... Hold on!.... Oh my goodness!"

His eyebrow suddenly vaults to the very top of his head.

"BLPM BGX!!"

The sounds of a slowly vomiting vacuum-cleaner come from his throat.

"...Oh! I do apologize, Br'n!"

"What happened??"

"Delicious!" he exclaims. "I must see about inviting yr Lucy to our planet! Here she is again — Toodooloo!"

The little screen darkens, and sinks through the petals.

The *fndwl* is still scurrying around the table, and I grab its horns. It squirms, and squints, and lets out a squeak.

Cripes — Hbbh never did tell me how to turn it off.

I take it onto my lap, and scratch it above its eyes.

★ ★ ★ ★

On the telescreen above, the face of Venus. In a head-dress of stars.

The As-U-Like-It comes up the aisle and stops at our row, but I wave it on. There being no other passengers, it rattles on to its station, where it leafs blankly through a newspaper.

My *fndwl* sits moodily in the window seat.

"The passion planet — isn't that what the ads are calling it?"

What?

The voice comes from overhead, but who?

"Hello??"

"Hey, don't panic... Captain Arnold Brent here. Your chauffeur to the stars! Enjoy your trip!"

"Hello!" I say, speaking to the air. "Well, let's just say it was full of surprises...."

"I'll bet! But I didn't know they were letting tourists in already."

"Oh — I'm a reporter. I got a preview."

"Say — did you get to the Merry Go-Go Round?"

"Why yes, I did."

"Hey, I'm in that!"

"Really?"

"Yeah — some Venusian character dropped by our hangar looking for models. Took a whole bunch of us."

"Well! Congratulations, glamour-boy...."

Hmm... Have you, dear reader, ever wanted to be a reporter? All you need is lots of curiosity. And a bit of imagination....

"Oh, I don't think they used much of me. I

got a hundred *dwdls* out of the deal but some of the guys made three times that."

"Hello? Are you still, Captain? Is something wrong?"

"Hey — what's the matter?"

"Hello??"

"Can't you hear me? That's funny, I can hear you...."

"Hello??"

"Darn, the circuit must be jammed — Hey listen, why don't you come up to the cockpit instead? 'Gainst the rules and all, but...."

"I'd be charmed!"

"It's up the ladder and to your left...."

I'm out of my seat and halfway up before....

"...Hey! If you can't hear me, how come...."

I open the door, and he turns.

And I look —

Into the emerald-greenest eyes I've ever seen.

"Say," he smiles, "I've seen you before! You're...."

"Br'n — I mean Brian — Lannelhead!"

...On his way home.●

FROM CRAYONS TO PERFUME

A Closet Revisited



by Guy Babineau

Illustration by Regan Morris

It's late at night. I lie wide awake, staring at The Mysterious Stars of the Universe that Dad plastered all over my bedroom ceiling when I was seven years old. The little dayglo specks flicker with the same magic they had 20 years ago. The only real difference is their size. The constellations and galaxies seem farther from my grasp than when I was a kid. I'm bigger, the stars are smaller.

I remember how carefully my father stuck each water-soaked celestial body to the freshly papered ceiling. He constantly referred to an astronomical chart at his side to make sure each star was put in its proper place. Although he concentrated, he managed to screw up a lot. He occasionally confused blue stars with white stars and put a supernova where a dwarf belonged. The Dippers, Big and Little, underwent a serious misappropriation of parts. But that didn't matter. Even as a little kid I was into spectacle. The effect of the entire universe shimmering on a small boy's ceiling is not to be dismissed.

Now some of the stars have fallen out of the sky. The Bear, once my favourite constellation, has a bad case of leprosy, and is missing two paws and his snout. What's left, however, is grand.

My universe was the brightest in the world. At bedtime, when the stars had had a good enough dose of 60-watt lightbulb to make them glow for a long time, I'd turn off the switch and dive into bed. My blankets and pillow were already arranged in a circle to simulate a flying saucer. I was a lunatic about flying saucers; never missed a '50s sci-fi film.

I was content sitting in my saucer, pretending to whizz through the star systems. I stayed up very late, until my parents turned off the National and padded off to bed. Then I'd have to knock off, in case Dad fell too asleep to save me from being attacked by extraterrestrials.

The stars are the only childhood remnants left in my bedroom except for one other thing.

The tacky blue-lined wallpaper is gone. My rock collection's gone. The grapes I hid in my underpants drawer so that they'd turn into raisins are gone. But it's still there, the thing that used to scare the living daylights out of me. Something which both tempted and repulsed me as a black hole in space tempts and repulses the eager spacehunter.

The closet, my bedroom closet.

Regarding my closet now, on an adult visit home, I can smile. I've come to terms with it, but it was a tough battle.

The fear began when I was about eight and the universe had become old news.

There was something wrong with the closet door. About five minutes after you shut it, it would open, slow and assertive, without provocation. After an abyss of time had lapsed, it stopped, leaving a crack of the unknown six inches wide. And one, I was sure, that was fraught with danger.

A scientific kid, I was partial to the theory of cause and effect. Doors weren't supposed to just swing open. Something had to make them open. I deduced that a force beyond my mortal comprehension was responsible for baring my closet's

gaping maw night after nightmarish night.

I imagined all sorts of horrible things lurked within. Nasty bogymen with lizard scales covering their bodies and sea snakes for hair. Giant clumps of jelly with one eyeball. Giant clumps of jelly that were eyeballs. Ugh!

As I got older, the things in my closet changed. I started having half-awake dreams. A man's deep voice came from the closet, beckoning me to join him. I obeyed and stepped slowly forward, somnambulistic as The Victim of The Mummy's Curse. I pulled back the door, stepped into the silent, expansive darkness. Warm breath washed over my shoulder, my neck, the side of my face. A guttural purr growled in my ear as huge, masculine hands caught my ribs in an iron grip.

Then the worst part happened.

The hands began to tickle me. They started off gradually and methodically, then got faster and faster. It was unendurable. I screamed for it to stop, but it didn't. And in a dull glow that came from I didn't know where, I saw a face.

I couldn't believe it. It was Mr Sayles, my phys-ed teacher, who yelled at me once during baseball because I didn't know you were supposed to run when you hit the ball. He always acted like he hated me because I was a bit of a sissy yet could run faster than any guy in my grade. I did a couple of other things well, like climbing the gym ropes higher than anyone else and turning flawless consecutive cartwheels.

Mr Sayles didn't think sissies should do anything well. When I went into the boys' change room, he'd smack me on the bum really hard and keep his hand there longer than necessary. When I bent down for a drink during the five seconds we were allowed at the water fountain at end of class, he clamped his hands down on my neck, making me choke.

So what was he doing in my closet? Why was he tickling me to death? I couldn't make sense of it.

I screamed his name at the top of my lungs — "Mr Saaaaaaaaaaaaayles!" — then fell into a heap, waking up to find myself in bed, the closet door open slightly, smirking at my state of shock.

I had to do something about this.

One night I went to bed firmly intent on not falling asleep. A flashlight swiped from Dad's workbench drawer was under my pillow, ready for action. I heard the closing theme of the National, quiet conversation, a muffled cough, and finally the click of my parents' bedroom door. I stepped out from my bed onto the rug, a field of battle. I was going to conquer my closet.

I switched on the flashlight and aimed it at my adversary. Flesh-crawling step by flesh-crawling step I got closer and closer. My hand grasped the cold doorknob. In a rush of adrenalin, my nerves ajangle, I swept back the door to reveal my enemy.

And found nothing. Nothing at all.

I stepped back, relief knocking the wind out of me. There was no man, no Mr Sayles. It was empty, had always been.

I don't dismiss my childish fear as complete nonsense. Being honest with yourself, facing your private monsters, is hard. Perhaps now I'm not quite as awestruck by the limitless universe on the ceiling of my childhood, but I'm glad I learn-

ed so early that the only thing to fear in dark places behind doors is what you put there yourself.

Burrowing through some old boxes stored in my closet, I come across the text of a play I was in when I was eleven. The script is frayed and faded and in the corner of each page where I had a line or appearance is a giant ME scribbled in pink felt pen. Stage directions are clearly indicated in turquoise; the dialogue is a shocking lime-green.

At Kerrisdale Elementary School coloured felt pens were for girls. But I couldn't resist them. Rosemary Carswell, who sat in front of me in Social Studies, got an "A" on her report about coffee plantations in Mexico while I only received a measly "B+" for my brilliant dissertation on Atlantic sea-trawling called Fisheries Are Our Friends. Since I knew that I was way smarter than her, it seemed obvious to me that Rosemary got her high mark because she underlined everything in a myriad of colours. Not only that, she even filled in a xerox of a coffee blossom, making the pistil red, the anthers blue and the petals yellow. The issue was packaging, not content. It wasn't fair.

I saved my allowance for five weeks until I had enough to buy a package of felt pens. It was risky enough for a guy to buy even a small pack containing only the primary colours and their immediate subsidiaries, green and orange. But that wasn't good enough for me. I went out and purchased a glorious Spectrum of the Rainbow 16-Pak. The colours leaped out from beneath the laminated plastic, each fabulous hue assuring me that I would get an "A+" on my next Social Studies report, The Japanese Silkworm, An Oriental Wonder.

The first day at school with my new felt pens was a catastrophe. My until-then-best-friend Drew called me a "horny queer," although his understanding of the phrase was abstract, and Rosemary made that clicking noise with her tongue that is the ultimate prissy-girl putdown. At recess, the boys in my class formed a barricade to prevent me from coming onto the boys' blacktop. I stood glumly kicking gravel at the edge of the girls' blacktop, trapped in a no-man's land. Adding insult to injury, two grade four girls wearing Partridge Family sweatshirts asked me if I'd hold one end of their skipping rope.

I took my felt pens home with me that night. I decided that a "B+" on a Social Studies report was a lesser sacrifice than banishment from my own sex. All the same, it struck me that other boys were deprived if they couldn't share with me the wonderful possibilities coloured felt pens hinted at, the worlds they opened. I thought myself very fortunate.

The felt pens didn't stay tucked away too long.

After two years of children's drama classes, I was cast in a professional production of James Reaney's Colours In the Dark at the Vancouver Playhouse.

On the first day of rehearsal we sat in the green room and were assigned our lines. There were eight kids, including me, and I was the youngest. We were told that we had to mark our lines clearly on the script so we wouldn't miss cues and that

the best way to do that was to use coloured felt pens. My heart leaped with joy.

But I was wising up. After my blacktop nightmare, I wasn't going to leave myself open for rejection. I was learning that the boys' club doesn't tolerate transgressors. But there was no need for me to worry in this bunch.

When the director told us we'd each have to buy a pack of felt pens, a wave of premature socialism swept over me and I announced that I had sixteen of them at home that we could share. To my surprise two of the other guys, Sullivan and Brad, had felt pens too. They were both from Vancouver's wealthy British Properties, so it figured. Only the fourth boy, Jonathan, didn't have any.

Oh, to be surrounded by artists my own age who understood the wonder of artificial colour! At last, other normal boys like me.

My only problem throughout rehearsals was Jonathan.

Jonathan was a rough, athletic kid from a tough part of Vancouver's east end. At 13, he was two years older than I, strongly built, with coarse black hair and blue eyes. He was very hyperactive, always trying to get attention. Every now and then he'd force me into wrestling matches that he always won. Then he'd call me a "fem" and tease me. He intimidated me, but there was something about him that attracted me and I tried to be around him as much as possible.

One day we were on our way back from lunch, taking a short cut through the Hudson's Bay store.

We got into the elevator and Jonathan pushed the button for ground floor. It was one of the few times I was completely alone with him.

Between the third and second floors, he pushed Emergency Stop. The elevator creaked to a standstill. So did my heart.

"Are you scared?" Jonathan smiled as he crossed his legs and leaned back against the wall opposite me. "You're a fem, you oughta be."

"No." I couldn't help but think that this was where I was supposed to see my life flash before my eyes.

"No what? No you're not a fem, or no you're not scared?"

"No neither," I replied. I was sure I didn't sound convincing.

Just when things seem to be at their lowest you find you're nowhere near the bottom: Jonathan turned out the lights.

"Now you're scared, aren't you," he snickered.

"No." Stupid stubborn me.

"I bet you are."

"I bet I'm not."

Jonathan was right beside me now. Suddenly, he grabbed me and I knew I was in for one of our wrestling matches. But this time was different. He was trying harder than ever to pin me down, to make me completely helpless. I stopped trying to fight fairly and began scratching and kicking, but it was no use. Pretty soon he had me spread-eagled on the floor and was straddling my stomach, holding my arms back behind my head.

He bent his head down right above mine. "Don't tell anyone about this, or you'll be sor-



ry." Then he put his lips to mine and stuck his tongue into my mouth.

I tried to say something, but his tongue was in the way. He swished it all over the place, banging it against my teeth and the roof of my mouth. No one had ever done anything like this to me before. I wondered if I'd get any diseases and the thought that I might die of the bubonic plague made me start crying.

The elevator jerked into motion, and Jonathan sprang up. I barely remember what happened next. Tears, running through the parkade, tears, arriving at rehearsal, more tears and a story to the director about how Jonathan had tried to beat me up in the parkade elevator. As the sensitive boy, I was coddled and as the bully, Jonathan was reprimanded. We were forced to shake hands and make up in front of the entire cast. It was possibly the most humiliating moment of my life.

I was guilty about what happened, perhaps more guilty than Jonathan. I felt that maybe he'd done nothing wrong, only something honest.

When the play's run was through there was a cast party at a house in Kitsilano. The adults got drunk and we watched, wondering what it felt like. I managed to have my first full glass of wine. Jonathan, I think, had two.

At one point, we both ended up in the backyard enveloped by the shadow of a large Douglas Fir. We watched the clear night sky. I took his hand, and neither of us said a word. Then, I turned to Jonathan and did to him what he did to me on the elevator.

I didn't see him for years after the cast party. We ran into each other at a bar and I don't think he even remembered our kiss. He's really into sleeping around now, while I've remained a die-hard romantic.

Back then neither Jonathan nor I really understood the significance of our feelings. But I think

we both knew something in us had grown. Like the bright felt pens I was drawn to, like the title of the play we were in, we had both found our colours, in the dark.

Prompted by the high-school transcript I found at the bottom of my closet, I stand in front of my old high school, staring through the dust-smeared windows of the art room where I spent most of my time. A group of us hung out together and we were very artistic. We played The Divine Miss M and Pointer Sisters' albums until we were almost platform-shoed out of existence.

Mom once said to me, "Whatever you do, don't confuse homosexuality with art." Did I listen to her? No, I was too busy pretending to be Ziggy Stardust. Besides, back then I confused everything with art. That's what happens when you read The Age of Reason at The Age of Sixteen and think you understand it.

One of my friends in grade 11 was Ruth Schantz, a big wonderful woman who wore overalls and cowichan sweaters. She lived with her mother Muni, who was divorced and a "liberal thinker." Between grades 10 and 11 Ruth lied about her age and got a job on a fishing boat off the coast of Vancouver Island. She was the only woman on the boat and came back with tales of naked fishermen and sexual intrigue.

The rest of us listened attentively. Although we all talked an adult line about sex and pretended to be indifferent, almost jaded about its importance, the slightest hint of something pornographic turned us into beings of lust fit only for the chamber of Tiberius. I was the only one of us other than Ruth who'd actually had sex but she didn't find out about my predilection until practically the whole school knew.

One day I was sitting in the hall by my locker, just inside the door to the smoking steps where all

the jocks congregated. I liked it there. From time to time they would turn around and peer at me, sizing up my outfit. That day I was wearing platforms and wide-legged jeans that were so massive they covered my shoes when I stood. The look was impressive — a skinny, columnar torso supported by two pyramids. My skintight T-shirt displayed a portrait of David Bowie in glitterdust. My hair mirrored the birdcut of the rock star's androgynous period.

Ruth, her cheeks red and healthy as usual, meandered by and suggested we skip out for the afternoon. It sounded like a good idea to me.

The minute we got inside the door Ruth turned to me with the straightest face this side of Ernest Ainsley. She drew me into the living-room and made me sit down beside her on the sofa, which was beige, Swedish and vaguely modern. On the two opposing mahogany end-tables were various photographs in various sizes of various Schantzes. Across from me on the wall was a macramé owl Muni had made. Beside it was one that Ruth had tried to make but had given up on three-quarters of the way through. Mother and daughter, finished and unfinished.

"The gossip is that you're gay," Ruth announced sternly.

"It's not gossip," I replied brusquely. "It's true. Gossip is the hinter of our discontent. I'm pretty pleased with myself."

"Then it's not just a phase?"

"No."

"Good." Ruth relaxed. "If it was just a whim, I'd kill you for the promotional tour you're giving yourself. You make it so goddamned obvious. But if you're secure within yourself, it's your business how you handle it, I guess."

"I'm secure, you don't have to worry about me. It's people who try to bottle it up who have all the problems. They're the ones who see shrinks

and try to kill themselves and stuff like that, not people like me."

"I guess you're right."

I took her large hand. "So it's all right with you?"

Ruth smiled. "Of course. It's your bed, not mine."

Women who have spent two months on a fishing boat with only men will accept anything.

Two years later, Ruth fell in love with another woman. I can't say I was surprised. She'd had her fill of men at the ripe old age of 18. I can't say the same about myself.

I was fortunate. I had good friends in high-school who accepted my sexuality as a simple extension of my personality. It's sad to hear stories about people who keep their feelings bottled up in the very important years of adolescence. It takes strength to fess up to yourself and then the world, but if you can do it when you're a teenager, then you can get on with the business of being an adult a whole lot sooner than you would otherwise.

The way I came out of the closet was to avoid it completely. Circumnavigation has had its ups and downs, but on the whole, I'm glad.

The world is full of bedrooms with closets. No matter what age we are, that's where we keep all kinds of private things. But it need no longer be fear.

Who knows what closets lurk in the hearts of men?

I know.

Question: "How do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume?"

— Lulu, To Sir With Love
Answer: "Thank yourself."

POEM

A Dream of Reunited Continents

My eyes move among the crowd
like galleons sailing the Ivory Coast
in search of perfect specimens.
I'm searching for the haunting
in my heart, the sad, doomed dance
Lombardo could never fully orchestrate.
Compelled, I search the shadows
of a Lido for the powerful prance
that percolates the gossip of my being.
Morning is a shaken place when
secret vices nestle in the wakes
of joggers leaving Friday prints in sand.
I am a boy just learning timpani,
I am a note that curls at two a.m. inside
the belly of a tenor sax. I am
the central dancer in the battle of
the mongoose and the snake. I am the white
cheeks walking shadows with an ache
for butcher boys. I make cancer
seem to be a lusty, secret vice,
for age as chaperone has taken me beyond
erotic heat and decadence into the
proper racing lanes evocative of death.
Their bellies empty, rattling chains,
sails gulping at the westerlies,
my galleons find a comfy bar and dine
on sand, and dreams of angels are
my ossal spread upon the ocean's floor.

Frederick A Raborg, Jr.
Frederick A Raborg, Jr has published "some 18 gay
novels" — and many poems as well.

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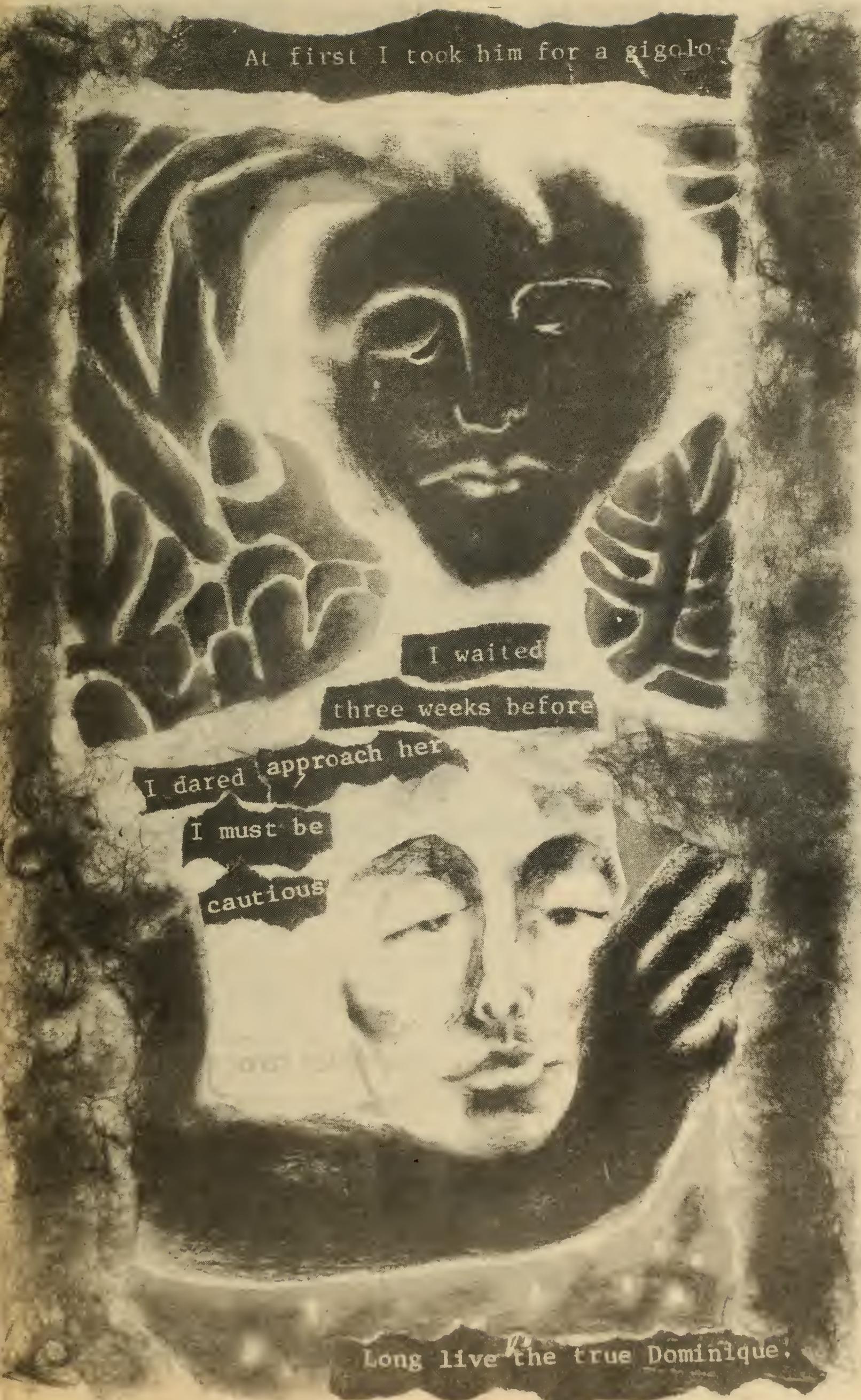


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THE CHOICE

by Albert Russo

Illustration by Robyn Lake



SPRING

IN A SMALL TOWN OF THE AUVERGNE IN CENTRAL FRANCE

Moira: At first I took him for a gigolo and gave him the cold shoulder. It was his bohemian elegance and his striking good looks. I am wary of boys that are so handsome. But then I watched him throughout the dance last Saturday evening. At one moment girls were fluttering around him like a swarm of dazzled night butterflies; he declined their invitations with a wan smile. Some of the girls out of spite sniggered at him. Then I detected panic in his eyes — or so I thought — and I began to wonder what he could be searching for in a place like this. I'd seen him twice before. He would sit alone at the far end of the dance floor and would glance at the door every so often as if expecting someone. I assumed he was about to leave when he crossed the floor over in my direction and asked me to dance with him. I refused curtly. Five minutes later he was back and reiterated the invitation.

He held me by the waist as if it were the stem of a glass flower and I perceived a tremor in his fingers. Slender and a good head taller than me, he told me he was new in town, that he'd come here because he had landed an interesting job as a designer at the toy factory. "Turning a new page," he said as we whirled to a slow waltz. He acted very gentlemanly and craned his pallid neck lest I should think wrongly about his intentions. His chin now and then brushed my temple. I reckoned he'd had a strict Catholic upbringing and was proven not to be mistaken.

"I spent twelve years with the Jesuits," he said.

Behind the polish and the discipline, behind the Cartesian reasoning I sensed the seething of a volcano.

Dominique: I waited three weeks before I dared approach her. I must be cautious and not appear too eager. My cheeks are on fire. She won't notice, it's too dim. 'Ne me quite pas': 'Jacques Brel, spare us your sentimentality!' Now she's sizing me up. I asked her if we could meet elsewhere. 'Call me next week,' she said, 'I'll be away for a few days.' She gave me her office number at the hospital. The minute she pro-

"She kissed then slapped then kissed me again and with veiled eyes she called me a son of a whore. No, she wasn't interested in why I'd left so unexpectedly, where I'd stayed all that time or who I'd seen."

nounced her name I felt appeased. How strange! Moira... moiré... mystery. Somehow she's reconciled me with this unfriendly town.

Dominique: We drove to the Mont Doré in her 2CV Citroën. It was pleasant enough until it started to drizzle. Watching her profile sketched against the window haze I was struck by her resemblance to a Fernand Knopf portrait. She has that same androgynous quality, that same resolve underlined by the protuberant jaws.

The resort looked haunted and forbidding against the backdrop of the Massif Central. We went inside a pâtisserie. Moira ordered an Irish coffee and I had hot chocolate. She was still testing me. By now, of course, I had divulged the story of my life, whilst I knew very little about her except that she was born down in the valley and practised as a child psychologist.

Moira: He's still quite naive, though he did have the courage to break away from his family. I like his wit; if only he could be less stiff. I wish he'd stop tapping his foot against the table. 'I need a friend,' he said. We'll see how things work out. He is three years younger than me.

Moira: He was disappointed he hadn't brought his camera along, he would have liked to take a few shots of me in the desolate thermal establishment. 'The spooky atmosphere lends itself to surrealistic compositions,' he said and asked if we could return to the Mont Doré once again before the season opens. Time flew. I hadn't realized it was already past eight o'clock. He insisted that I drop in at his apartment for an apéritif. There's something quite touching about the ambience he's created, but my God, is he incensed with himself! The walls are plastered with his toy designs and photomontages. Those little girls trapped in futuristic contraptions could be an obsession: Alice strayed into outer space. Looking at them closely, it isn't so much innocence as mischief which transpires from their doe-eyed expressions, as if they had been responsible in a way for the plight they suddenly find themselves in.

Besides his drawing board and the floor-level bed, the living room contains no furniture. Scattered over the parquet are cushions of odd sizes and shapes, all in pastel hues with a predominance of mauves and pinks. The stereo and TV sets are enclosed in their appropriate cabinets.

He also keeps his books and records out of sight. 'Friends should never impose themselves upon you,' he explained.

As I bade him good evening I noticed the watercolour hanging above the door. Another naked little girl, but this one had a purple cross for a vagina.

Dominique: It's been almost four months since we met. We were carrying on beautifully, until it happened last night. I'm sure it was the champagne. Before I could protest Moira had stripped me. And as her fingers searched my body I felt as if my pores opened up like a field of budding poppies. That I lay in a near-catatonic state didn't seem to bother her. She went on fondling me. 'You knew I wasn't ready,' I heard myself mutter. But she ignored my plea and made love to me well into the night. At each implosion I fired my load of poison into her womb, picturing the deluge of blood. 'What have you done, Moira?'

Moira: The softness of his down. He's built like an overgrown boy. Not an ounce of fat. At fifty his body will still be that of an adolescent. He's so bland, so disarmingly passive. I will his prick to fill me to the hilt and it obliges. Not a smile, not even a sound escaping his lips to mark the orgasmic event, as if his impressive shaft had drained to it all the energy of his being. He comes copiously and when it happens, I want to shred his skin with my nails. Instead, I smother him with kisses. After all, maybe he does enjoy acting the sexual robot.

Moira: Just returned from my weekend seminar and found this note under the doormat. 'I'm leaving for an indefinite period. Don't wait for me.' It isn't possible, the other night couldn't have triggered such an extreme reaction. Why didn't he open his mouth if it was that disturbing? To think that he looked so peaceful in his sleep! I don't even know the address of his folks. What a dirty trick! Calm down, calm down! How can I calm down? I must find him.

Moira: Scant news; simply confirming the contents of his note. His landlord wouldn't tell me anything at first. He took a lot of coaxing before he finally revealed that Domi paid half a year's rent in advance, leaving no address, of course. As for the personnel manager at the toy factory, he was even more cut and dried and said that Domi had been granted a leave of absence. He refused to elaborate. They must value Domi a great deal.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Dominique: She kissed then slapped then kissed me again and with veiled eyes she called me a son of a whore. No, she wasn't interested in why I'd left so unexpectedly, where I'd stayed all that time or who I'd seen. Knowing me she surmised that eventually, sooner or later, I'd come out with it.

We had a late Christmas Eve supper and ate by candlelight. There was pâté de foie, salade niçoise, salmon trout and asparagus, and bananes flambées au cognac and we drank champagne rosé. God, was it good to savour a real French meal after so long. I insisted that we attend Midnight Mass. 'The mystical itch, or is it repentence?' she grinned. In church, singing with the choir I had tears and thanked Him for giving me the courage to pull through. More than ever I need Him.

Moira: Only now do I realize how much he means to me. And I do crave his beautiful lean body! But I shan't repeat the mistake and provoke another disaster. Let him, in his own good time, come towards me. There's a feverish look about him. Whenever our eyes meet he lowers his glance and sketches a smile as if he is about to dis-

close something, then at the last moment he retracts.

Dominique: She invited me at the Auberge to celebrate my return. She pretended not to be surprised when I told her I'd spent all these months in England, but that I'd hardly seen anything of London or the countryside. 'It was a trip I'd been planning for a long time,' I said, 'and it was essential that I sequester myself from the world. It's been very difficult, excruciating at times, but here I am,' I said with a flourish and we clinked glasses.

Moira: What did he mean yesterday when he exclaimed, 'Down with the 25-year-long tyranny, long live the true Dominique?' He must be suffering a bout of anglomania. That sense of humour totally escapes me. Should I take it lightly or must I expect some sort of backlash? He is still avoiding physical contact. Blowing me goodnight kisses from the hollow of his hand! Does he believe I shall contaminate him?

Moira: He's gone back to work. I don't recall he's ever looked so radiant. He's so full of energy. He's already talking of a job promotion. After all the English air seems to have benefited him. I just hope it isn't a passing euphoria.

Dominique: They're giving me a hard time at the registration office. It was very humiliating, though I had to comply. But the physical proof does not appear to be enough. The news will spread like wildfire and it is now a matter of days. That may be the best way for Moira to learn about it. I can already hear the slurs and the jeering remarks. The breadmaker's wife can be trusted, she won't wait a second to make the announcement. As for the cute dimpled pharmacist, he'll want to take his revenge. I wonder how the librarian will react; I quite like him. How does one prepare oneself for the massive onslaught? Rough times ahead, but thank goodness I haven't to worry professionally. My boss, who's the only person I have warned, is first and foremost a businessman. 'What you do outside of the plant is none of my concern, it is the result that counts, and in your field you're our best element,' he said after recovering from the initial shock.

Moira: We drove back to the Mont Doré, 'so that only the forest can hear us,' he said earnest-

ly. We walked out of the cafe towards the woods. At the clearing overlooking the valley he kissed me passionately. Then as I began to press my body against him his grip on my shoulders tensed. I let go. 'Did you like it?' he asked. 'What a question, I love you.' I was short of breath. 'Would you consider sharing my life?' he said in a challenging tone. 'Not marriage, necessarily,' he added. I paused, listening to the warbling of a bird. Blissful, I didn't utter a word. 'Even if you discovered that I am not who you thought I was?' He didn't give me the occasion to sigh. 'Just look,' he warned, 'don't come near me,' and he slowly stripped. When he rolled down his briefs I couldn't stifle a cry. In place of his manhood was now a purple gash — the cross he'd painted on the little girl. I must have passed out, for when I saw him again, he was lying by my side with his clothes on and smiled. 'This is the true Dominique,' he said with a slight tremor in his voice. 'You have all the time to decide whether you still want 'him/her.'

Moira: I've given myself a full year and gone out with half a dozen men. I've tried to block him out of my mind. We've abided by the promise and we did manage to avoid each other. It's been horrendous. For him, to be scorned and derided — we call ourselves a civilized nation — for me, knowing everything that was going on, unable to defend him directly. Yet I couldn't shut up and I made countless enemies. There is no residue of doubt left, it is Dominique I want, it is Dominique I need. Love does in our case transcend sex. When I feel the urge I'll just go to Blaise or Pascal. Ten days left before our contract expires. They're the longest in my life.

Dominique: The TV interview was Moira's idea. She was right, one battle was not enough, we had to square up with our environment. People don't leave you in peace unless you force them to. There will still be a lot of hostility, but I feel much stronger now. I've come to love this place and this is our home.

I just wished she had not spoken about her grief for the loss of my manhood. It only adds more fuel. I suppose it is part of our predicament. It is the beginning of happiness. ●



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PRESSES

Surrounded by the ocean— surviving and loving it

Ragweed's Libby Oughton talks to Chris Bearchell
about publishing in PEI

When lesbian poet and political activist Christine Donald was casting about for a publisher for a volume of poetry, the only publisher on Prince Edward Island came highly recommended. As it turned out, Christine's poems came highly recommended to Ragweed Press, too. The recent successful launch, in Toronto, of *The Fat Woman Measures Up* was the eventual result.

Beginning in 1974, Ragweed was a small regional press specializing in local history. It had published about four books in six years when Libby Oughton came along. As she explains, "I had been working in Toronto and decided I needed a change in my life. I moved to Prince Edward Island and met the person who ran Ragweed Press and decided to join him. We published three books together and then he decided that earning no money was no fun and left to go to other things. I took over Ragweed, becoming the only publisher in PEI, in 1980."

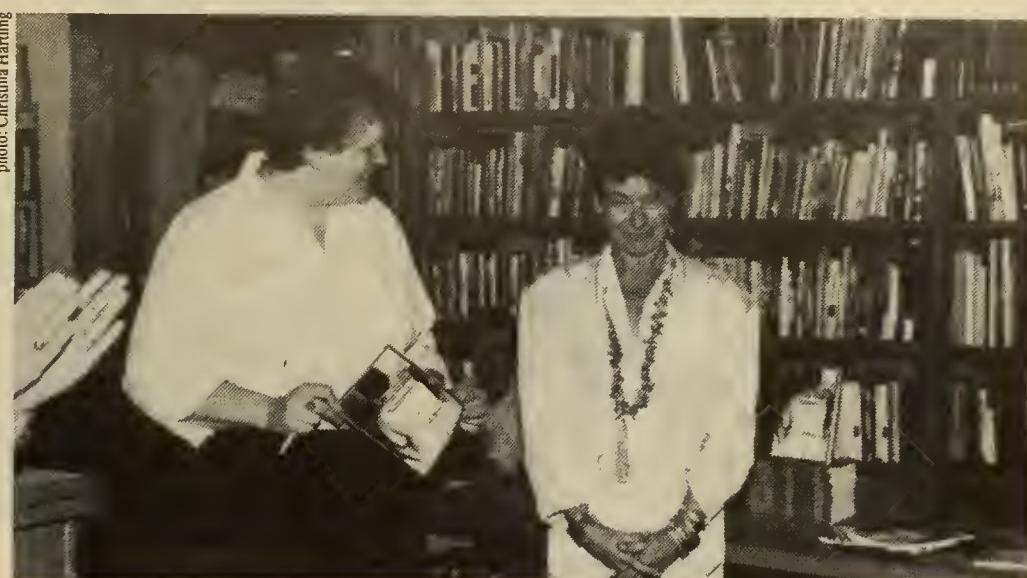
Under Oughton's ownership, Ragweed's emphasis has changed from mainly local history to mainly women's books. She's trying to shape it into something she can respect and have fun with,

most recent, but not its only, volume of lesbian poetry. One of lesbian poet Gillian Chase's books was one of Oughton's earliest. Donald's second book is among Ragweed's future plans.

"Someone asked me if I was fearful about publishing a lesbian book," Oughton laughs. "I hardly ever remember that it's a lesbian book; to me it's high quality writing and it's about the issue — about being large-sized. That was fascinating to me; it caused me to search around inside my own indoctrination because I happen to be a small person." Oughton says that 10, or even five, years ago, publishing a lesbian book was a rare act. Now she thinks the challenge is to deal with other issues.

That Ragweed publishes poetry or that it publishes at all is remarkable. "The market for poetry is generally lousy in Canada," says Oughton. "You sell, on an average, 300 copies of a book of poems; the act of publishing poetry is a political act."

PEI's economy is essentially agriculture and fishing. There are 120,000 people in the whole province — about as many as in the downtown



Libby Oughton (right), with Christine Donald, at their first Toronto book launching.

she says. "I love women, women's books, and women's writing. I've always known that only one out of every five books published is by a woman and that most of the publishing houses are owned by men, which exerts a strong influence on women's material. I'm not interested in women's non-fiction, because Women's Press does that perfectly well. I'm interested in new ideas, in fiction and poetry, about us as women — and in new forms — as we create our own literature, one that is not structured like men's novels or men's poetry. I also want to work with new authors, such as Christine, who have not been published before.

"Not only do I enjoy finding authors that I like and working with and keeping them happy, I also like to produce the package. I like to make a book look nice, and feel nice when you handle it. I like to make it a sensual experience. There is a women's sensitivity throughout the whole book. Not just the author's, but mine, in the role I play — in the packaging, the editing, the getting it out into the world."

The Fat Woman Measures Up is Ragweed's

core of Toronto. The capital, Charlottetown, has 17,000 people. Says Oughton, "when you publish in Toronto your first market is two million people, in PEI it's 120,000 — that's why it hasn't supported another publisher up to now. I'd certainly be better known if I was in Toronto or Vancouver."

Donald's book is the first of Ragweed's to be launched in Toronto. "I did that because Christine has a lot of friends here, because I like the book, and because I wanted to see what would happen if I brought it up into this big market. I've spent more money on promoting Christine's book than I usually do on poetry. Just to let people know about me and what I'm doing as well as about Christine's poetry." With a great launch party, a well-attended reading at the Women's Bookstore, and a spot on the CBC radio's Morningside, that promo certainly made a local splash. Oughton's now working on setting up a cross-country reading tour for her.

Since 1980, Ragweed has published 49 books — between 10 and 12 a year (about the same number produced by the Toronto-based Wom-

en's Press, with a fraction of the staff and resources). Ragweed now employs two women full-time, plus volunteers and summer help. But, like many of Libby Oughton's other preoccupations, it's still a labour of love rather than a paying proposition.

She's also been involved in fighting a Litton Systems plant coming to PEI to make cruise missile parts. "That brought together a lot of women," she says, admitting that "in PEI, I'm a great big fish in a little tiny pond. I was in the forefront of the Litton protest and got on national TV, that kind of thing, and the women are supportive; they respect what I'm trying to do and they know how hard it is."

"We have a good women's group in PEI," she explains, "but it's only about 30 women — and that's it for the entire island. It's hard to target a book in which a woman talks about the drudgery of housework. Obviously there are millions of housewives, but most of them choose to read Harlequins rather than my poetry."

"With Christine's book, I can target the market because it's a woman's book and it's a gay woman's book." Although she notes that, on PEI, while "the gay women have a very supportive network among themselves," Ragweed's one-room schoolhouse is one of the few places that women's dances and other similar events can be held.

Lesbians and feminists are, of necessity, not so easily distinguished on PEI, she says. "We're not so much in contact with all of you who have a huge support circle; you have all these options. Where we are, there are gay women, there are women who like women but don't live with women, there are women who are supportive of women — and that's our network."

"There is a community of Atlantic feminists that is very supportive of me, but it too is small. And we live in a place where there are oceans everywhere, so to get to my women's network in Newfoundland takes me longer than it takes me to get to Toronto. I go off to the conferences and I do my show-and-tell, but it's slow and it's hard."

Libby Oughton has a long-term perspective on both the problems of publishing and the development of feminism. She spends time going into schools to talk to children about how a book is made. "If you're going to publish books, you need readers, and you don't make readers out of adults who have never read, you make readers by giving children fine-quality things to read — things that are about themselves." Toward that end, she has published a social studies textbook for students in Prince Edward Island, as well as a half a dozen non-sexist kids' books.

She would also like to be "some kind of role model for the young women I come in contact with. I'm almost 50 years old," she explains. "When I grew up, there were very few things a girl could aspire to do with her life. Miriam Hilliard was a doctor and one of the people responsible for Women's College Hospital; she brought me into the world. I remember going to visit her and being impressed that she had such short hair, wore suits, and smoked cigarettes. In the early 1940s that was quite uncommon; we had very few role models. It's really important to me that young women, and all children, realize that anything is possible."

Christine Donald's *The Fat Woman Measures Up* is available at your local feminist or gay bookseller or from Ragweed Press, Box 2023, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N7.

Sex, sci-fi, and moralist revisionism?

Throne Trilogy cleans-up the controversy

Dreams of Vengeance, Volume 2 of The Throne Trilogy by Artemis OakGrove. Lace Publications, Lady Winston Series (Box 10037, Denver, CO 80210-0037 USA). \$7.95 (US).

Gillian Rodgerson •

In this sequel to *The Raging Peace*, OakGrove's 1984 novel that provoked howls of rage from feminist critics because of its (perceived) racism, violence and lack of any redeeming guilt, the author appears to have taken the complaints of her critics to heart. *Dreams of Vengeance* has the female protagonist Ryan O'Donnell — rake, rogue, millionaire pilot and every femme's dream date — settled down in suburban wedded bliss with Leslie Searle, the brilliant blonde lawyer who gave it all up to spend her days sunbathing and planning the arrangement of herbaceous borders on her new estate. All the rough edges that made *The Raging Peace* so much fun are gone, replaced by nurturing, sharing, the occasional hot fuck, and much more emphasis on the sub-plot involving ancient revenge. OakGrove managed to balance two separate plot lines in Volume 1; the modern day lives of Leslie, Ryan and their friends, and a tale of a group of goddesses who lived millenia ago and are still trying to wreak vengeance on each other in 1984 Colorado. The strands were kept fairly discrete and the reader wasn't allowed to know the connections between the two stories until the very end of the book when it was revealed that some of the characters were the goddesses reincarnated. The goddess sequences were set apart from the rest of the action as a story within a story. This device made the reading a little bumpy at times, but the book was entertaining even for those who are not fans of fantasy fiction. *Dreams of Vengeance* brings everything together; the fantasy realm intrudes daily in the modern story, in a way that weakens the whole. Ryan has become a character of spiritual powers who talks to animals and heals with a touch in addition to her other stellar attributes.

A glossary is included at the end of the book to help the reader keep the characters' various names and powers straight, but the names are not used in any clearly understood pattern. The main characters have four names each, yet there is no explanation for those who care to know what each kind of name means. OakGrove does not appear to have mapped out a history of any kind for the ancient priestesses and goddesses and it shows. One must assume that we will have to wait for the third volume to find out what the "name of power" and the "name of growth" mean for example, and what they have to do with the story.

There is a theme of spirituality that permeates *Dreams of Vengeance*, not just in the goddess sequences, and it is at its most bizarre when OakGrove is writing about sex. The characters appear to represent some kind of essential feminine, some spiritual spark of innate womanness. Their other personality traits are the bark surrounding this core. When these women have sex, they are

not just exchanging pleasure, they are exposing this core. From the description of Leslie's clit as her "femininity" to scenes where Ryan and Leslie ascend to the spiritual realm after sex, this theme is apparent.

The second volume of a trilogy is always difficult since it is neither the beginning of a story nor the climax. *Dreams of Vengeance* leaves a lot of loose ends hanging. The modern-day story takes second place to the convoluted plots of the goddesses, not always to the betterment of the book. One also has to wonder how much influence criticism of the first volume had on the developments in the second. For example, the scene in *The Raging Peace* which provoked the most negative criticism was one in which Ryan beats Sanji, a black woman, to within an inch of her life in an SM scene. Sanji is Ryan's sex slave and has consented

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about.**

to the relationship. In *Dreams of Vengeance*, Sanji is still in love with Ryan and can't remember where the scars on her back came from. She returns to live in the house with Ryan and Leslie, as Ryan's sex slave, and is given power over another woman there as well. It is revealed that it wasn't Ryan's fault after all that she beat Sanji so terribly. She was forced to do it by Rags, a woman who had a malevolent power over her. In a former life, Sanji had helped Ryan kill the chief priestess, Anara. Anara has been seeking revenge ever since — the beatings and Ryan's subjugation being part of that. This is all very well, but one has the feeling that OakGrove has inserted this information about Rags's hold over Ryan, which was explained as friendship in *The Raging Peace*, in order to respond to criticism of the scene as racist and unnecessarily violent. She certainly didn't need to do this. No one could possibly read *Raging Peace* as anything but fantasy, and to explain away SM as the result of malevolent extraterrestrials is both silly and insulting to her readers whose sex practices OakGrove may be writing about.

OakGrove's writing is overwrought and melodramatic, a style that is actually suited to the convolutions of her plots. She may have a career ahead of her as the Sidney Sheldon of lesbian literature. The Throne Trilogy would make a great television mini-series. •

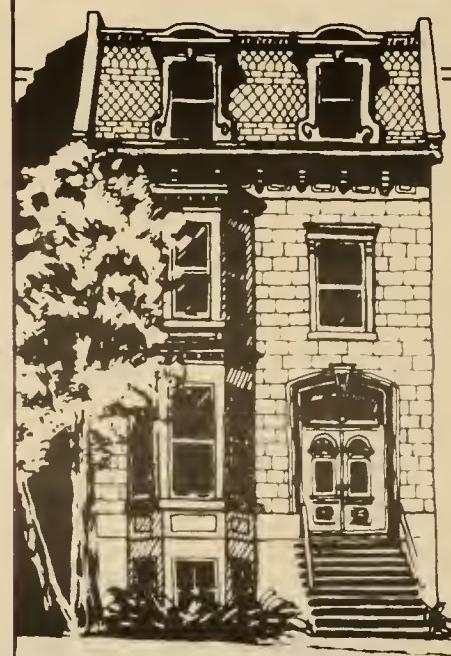
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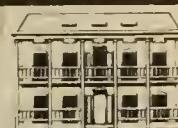
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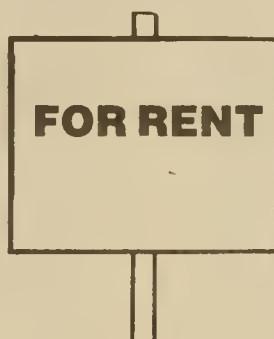


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VIDEO

Good, clean fun in the great outdoors

*The women at Tigress get points
for a wet and wild production*

Erotic in Nature from Tigress Productions. Tiger Rose Distributing (Box 342, Cotati, CA USA), 1985. \$38.50 (US).

Gillian Rodgerson •

Cris Cassidy, one of the two stars of *Erotic in Nature* from Tigress Productions wins the prize for the wettest orgasm in a lesbian video this year. Her masturbation scene with a garden hose in a jacuzzi is destined to become a classic in what is still a fairly new genre of porn videos — those written, produced, filmed and acted by women and aimed at a lesbian audience.

The tape opens with Kit Marseilles chopping wood, wearing shorts and safety boots. Marseilles seems a little uneasy at first, but she soon loosens up and has a good time. The pastoral lumberjack scene is interrupted by a slick cutaway to Cassidy, in mirrored sunglasses. It's a neat juxtaposition of styles — home movie meets Madison Avenue. Cassidy did the editing of the tape herself and it's excellent.

The second section of the tape, a picnic beside a river, has Cassidy and Marseilles dressed in butch/femme drag. Cassidy wears a slit-to-the-navel dress and the ubiquitous sunglasses while Marseilles sports a leather tie. In my opinion this

is the weakest section of the tape. The sound track is a voice-over of Cassidy and Marseilles talking about what they like most about each other. They're terribly sincere and nurturing towards each other, but it spoils the sexy mood built up in the first scenes. Publicity material says that the two are sex partners off-screen as well, and that Cassidy has made a number of straight porn films. It's obvious that she's more experienced as far as being filmed while having sex, but Marseilles holds her end up nicely. It's only when she's speaking that she sounds nervous and a bit stilted.

The final sequences, where the pair actually fuck, are excellent and very sexy. A conveniently-placed futon in the woods furnishes the set decoration and I think the filmmaker was right to keep things simple. The camera switches from face to face, allowing the audience to enjoy both women's actions and reactions. The sex is variations on Vanilla. Cassidy removes her sunglasses for this part so that we can see the expression in her eyes. The sound is a collection of music and moans which works well to sustain the mood.

This tape is hot and thoroughly enjoyable, worth several viewings. I'm looking forward to seeing much more from Tigress Productions. •

Kit Marseilles and Chris Cassidy. Making it in the woods.



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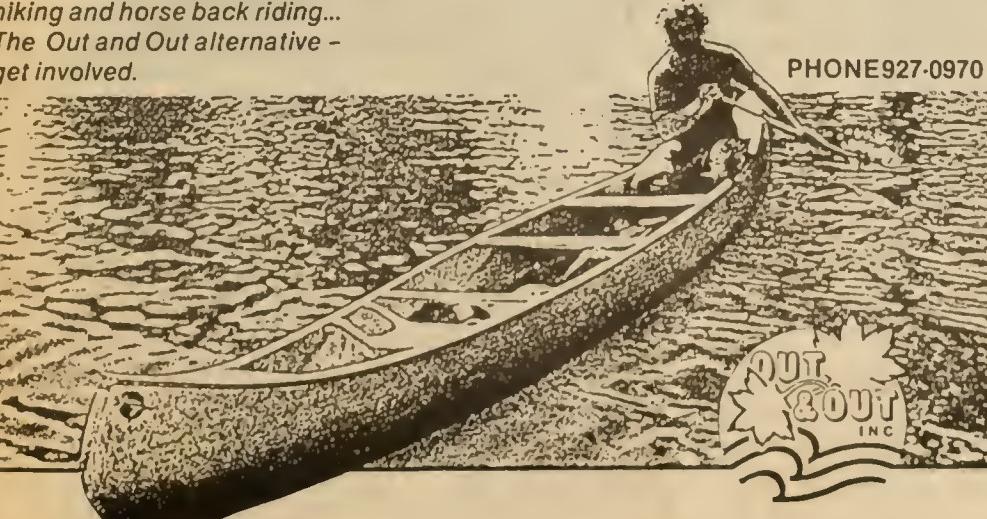
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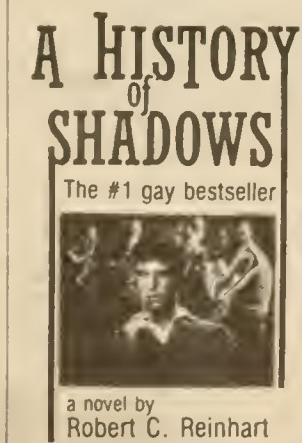


THE LITTLE DEATH, by Michael Nava, \$7.00. Henry Rios is becoming cynical about his job as a public defender. Then a man he has befriended — and loved — dies under suspicious circumstances. As he investigates the murder, Rios finds himself pitted against a wealthy dynasty that is as unyielding as the law he has studied — and far more ruthless.

"Congratulations on the debut of a promising new writer," writes Joseph Hansen.

THE HUSTLER, by John Henry Mackay; trans. by Hubert Kennedy, \$8.00. Gunther is fifteen when he arrives alone in the Berlin of the 1920s. There he discovers the boys of Friedrich Street, and the men who stroll by and speak with them. Soon he is spotted by Hermann Graff, a sensitive and naive young man who becomes hopelessly enamored with Gunther. But love does not fit neatly into Gunther's new life as a hustler....

Gunther's story was first published in 1926. For today's reader, it combines a poignant love story with a colorful portrayal of the gay subculture that thrived in Berlin a half-century ago.



A HISTORY OF SHADOWS, by Robert Reinhart, \$7.00. Through the eyes of four older gay men, Reinhart depicts what it was like to grow up gay in America a half-century ago, and to live a closet life during the Depression, World War II, the McCarthy period, and the Sixties.

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK, by Larry Duplechan, \$7.00. Johnnie Ray Rousseau is a 22-year-old black gay pop singer whose day starts at 11 pm. Keith Keller is a white banker with a 10 o'clock bedtime — and muscles to die for. This story of their love affair is one of the most engrossing — and funniest — you'll ever read.

A FEMINIST TAROT, by Sally Gearhart and Susan Rennie, \$7.00. Reading the Tarot is an attempt to perceive and understand the conscious and unconscious reality surrounding a particular question or circumstance. Here is a widely-acclaimed guide to using the traditional Tarot, with all its richness and mystery, as a women's Tarot, exploring women's inner regions, and giving ear to women's inner voices.



ENTERTAINMENT FOR A MASTER, by John Preston, \$8.00. In this full-length novel, Preston continues the exploration of S&M sexuality that he began in *I Once Had a Master*. The narrator — and master — decides to stage an outrageous party for three close friends. Much of the activity is taken up in the recruitment of volunteers who will instruct, and entertain, the master's guests.

QUATREFOIL, by James Barr, \$8.00. The year is 1946, and Philip Froelich faces a court martial for acting insubordinate to a lazy officer during the closing days of World War II. Then he meets Tim Danelaw, and soon the court martial is among the least of Phillip's concerns....

This classic novel, first published in 1950, remains a romantic and suspenseful read, an intelligently-written love story that gives a vivid picture of our recent but often-forgotten past.



THE PRESIDENT'S SON, by Krandall Kraus, \$8.00. In the world of presidential politics, everything else can easily take a back seat to the quest for political power. This fast-paced novel centers around a president seeking re-election — and his son, whose homosexuality, the president's advisors agree, must be kept secret.

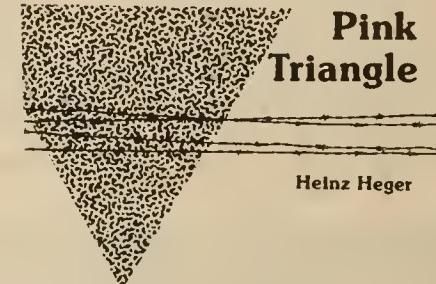
KINDRED SPIRITS, edited by Jeffrey Elliot, \$6.95. Science fiction offers a unique opportunity to portray gay and lesbian characters in a context free of present-day constraints. Here are twelve such stories, with very different visions of what it could one day mean to be gay.



MEDITERRANEO, by Tony Patrioli, \$12.50. Through some 46 photos, Italian photographer Tony Patrioli explores the homo-erotic territory in which, since the beginning of time, adolescent boys have discovered sex. (Oversize paperback)

COMING ALONG FINE, by Wes Muchmore and William Hanson, \$7.00. In their first book, *Coming Out Right*, Muchmore and Hanson discussed some of the challenges a man faces as he comes out. Here, they go further, discussing subjects ranging from problems with interpersonal relationships to the long-term anxieties caused by AIDS to the how-to's of setting up a gay business.

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photo: Gerald Hamm

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Name: Colin McEnery Cat's name: Reggie Dwelling: Bachelor apartment, downtown Toronto

Contents of fridge at time of photograph: Three white eggs, 2 garlic buds, Hartz Hairball Remedy for Cats, box of baking soda, jar of Hudson's Vintage Orange Marmalade with old French Brandy, bottle of Brewer's Yeast, bottle of Rose Hip Vitamin C, jar of rhubarb/blueberry spread, bottle of mom's quince jam, package of black peppercorns, package of thyme, package of rosemary, jar of mayonnaise, jar of French's mustard, bottle of ketchup, bottle of tonic water (half-full), bowl of fruit (peaches, pears, plums), box of dried bean sprouts, Brown paper bag containing cookie crumbs, plastic container of honey, tin of maple syrup, cheddar cheese, a plum pudding, package of oatmeal cookies, loaf of whole wheat bread, half-can of KalKan beef dinner, five tomatoes, an English cucumber. Freezer: ice cubes, can of Melitta coffee, four steak-and-kidney pies, container of black current ice, a gift-wrapped loaf of bran and raisin bread (from Christmas).

Contents of medicine cabinet at time of photograph:

Can of L'Oréal Free Hold Styling Mousse, jar of calamine lotion, bottle of Bausch and Lomb Sensitive Eyes Saline Solution, jar of aloe vera gel, bottle of NA PCA Miracle Moisturizing Lotion, NucleoProtein Styling and Setting Gel, Edge Shaving Gel, razor blades, bottle of Jean Marie Farina Cologne, Monsieur de Givenchy Stick Deodorant, tweezers, lens cleaner, Zami-Buk medicated ointment, box of Elastoplast Low Allergy Tapes, adhesive tape, Mudd Mask, lens case, syringe, box of Q-Tips, box of Butler Gum Stimulator Refills, dental floss, tube of Nivea Cream,

tube of Clinique Cream Shave, toenail clippers, scissors, three prescription drugs, jar of Tiger Balm, package of Outgro ("relieves pain of ingrown nails"), package of Chlor-Tripolon Antihistamine.

Time photograph was taken: August 6, 1986, before noon. •

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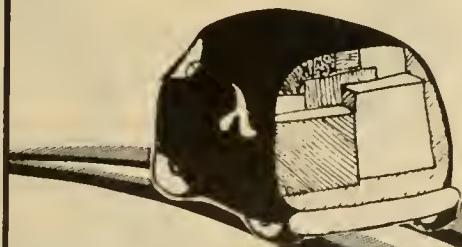


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NEEDED: A place to live, of course! GF requires bachelor apartment in downtown area close to TTC for Oct 1. Clean, quiet, no pets, luxury not necessary. Not rich but financially stable. Do you know of anything that might help me out? Call Hollie at 364-6320. Thank you!

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LESBIANS AND GAY MEN for peer counselling and information. Phone line. Should possess empathy, good listening skills and common sense. Phone TAG (416) 964-6600.

GAY COURTWATCH

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ORGANIZATIONS seeking volunteers can find them in The Body Politic classifieds. Advertise for volunteer help and get a 50% discount off our regular reasonable rates.

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BEING FAT OR GAY is tough enough. Being fat AND gay is worse. Chubby gay male, 32, seeks other gays to form a self help/support group. Primary purpose is to feel better about ourselves. Who knows, we might even lose weight. Drawer G200.

ATTENTION CYCLISTS

The Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario will hold its fourth Bike-A-Thon and Picnic on Toronto Islands, Sun, Sep 14. The circuit is 10 Km. We need cyclists, pledges and checkpoint volunteers. For details call (416) 533-6824 and leave name, address and phone.

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A NOTE to prisoners who wish to have pen pals — Metropolitan Community Church is offering a pen-pal service to men and women prisoners through the church's prison ministry. Prison Ministry, 730 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON M5S 2R4.

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LEFT BANK BOOKS sponsors a Books For Prisoners project. Through donations and a postage grant we are able to send free miscellaneous books to inmates everywhere (provided an institution allows them). We offer special order books at cost (usually 35-40% off). Prisoners and other interested persons should write: Books For Prisoners, Box A, 92 Pike St, Seattle, WA 98101.

SOME OF THE INMATES living in Louisiana correctional institutes have been successful in obtaining money or material items from individuals living outside the institution. The inmates have done this by misrepresenting certain facts about themselves such as their age, sex, race, crime, release date, etc. These misrepresentations have been made through the mail or by telephone. Anyone wishing to learn the true status of a Louisiana inmate they are corresponding with prior to sending money or material items, please call (504) 342-6740 and ask for Mrs Goodes. You need not identify yourself to receive this information.

SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK, 28, 1.72 meters, 60 kg, seeks correspondence from others in similar situation. Like reading magazines and writing letters. Write SIMON NKODI, c/o Priscilla Jana, PO Box 61875, Marshalltown 2107, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa.

BLACK MALE, 24, wishes to write to others who wish to reach out. I have a positive attitude and various interests. T Page, #178-649, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

HI! MY NAME IS MATTHEW. Black, 29, 5'8" 147 lbs, single, sensitive, caring, loyal, trustworthy. I seek sensual appeal in likewise person. Please write Matthew Pollard, #174-383, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

GAY MALE, 20, 5'8" 155 lbs, wishes to write to a man who is caring, outgoing, understanding, very passionate and sincere. Richard Acree #185-354, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

I AM NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING but to share my thoughts and experience with someone who would like to do the same. I'm 33, 5'10" 140 lbs, brown eyes and hair, and am especially interested in gay news. John Tuten, #044014, Union Correctional Institute, SEU 20/285, Box 221, Raiford FL 32083.

IN NEED OF A FRIEND. Male, 29, green eyes, brown hair, 5'11" 175 lbs, needs letters from sincere men. Alton Edwin Urbauer, #100755, Box 97, McAlester OK 74501.

LONELY GAY MALE, looking for a true mate who is understanding and loveable. If it's you, please write to Eugene Hill, Union Correctional Institute, Box 221, Raiford, FLA 32083.

GAY MALE, 5'9" 196 solid lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, 22, enjoys sports, chess, reading, drawing. I don't like games, especially those of the mind. I am straightforward concerning all matters and am not violent. I am open about my sexuality. Please write to me, Michael Cowley, IDB 054845-J-3-289-B, Box 340, Sharpes, FLA 32939.

GWM, 29, 6'1" 190 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, in search of a gay friend and companion who will correspond with me. I am lonely and would appreciate communicating with sincere friends. Russell Wright, Box 41, #24071, Michigan City, IN 46360.

I AM IN SEARCH of gay friends or a companion who will write on a mutual basis. Asking no more than I am willing to give, I believe that understanding leads to knowledge, love and respect: things that are priceless. Floyd Tewell, 4048, Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46360.

YOUNG MALE seeks another male to form a sincere relationship with. Brown hair, blue eyes. I will answer all who write. Randy Hood, 153-45, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

MALE, COLLEGE-EDUCATED, hoping to find someone special, I am 5'11" 167 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, 30 years old. Will answer any and all letters I receive. Aaron E Goodwin, 168-328, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP AND RAPPORT with kindred spirit. Sincere, articulate, rapacious reader, cerebral, self-educated and rehabilitated. Gender, age, race unimportant. Mark Hardman, 164-374, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

GWM LOOKING FOR SOMEONE to share my dreams and feelings with. 26, blond hair, blue eyes and a smile no prison can make disappear. Share your friendship with me. Will answer sincere people. Randy Cannon, 152-263, Box 97, McAlester OK 74501.

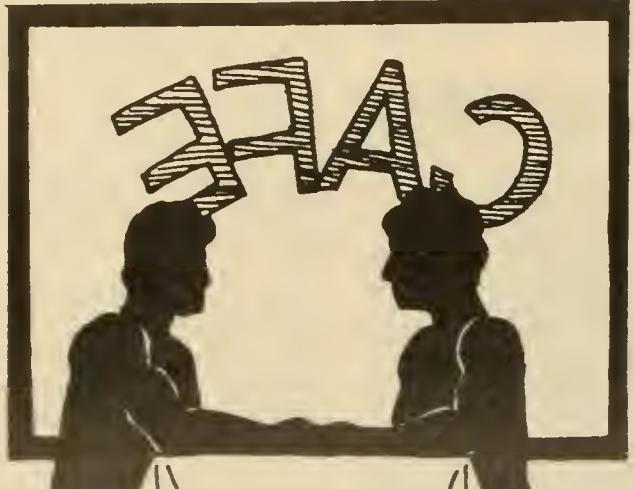
IN SEARCH OF A GAY COMPANION who will write with me on a mutual basis. I ask no more than I'm willing to give. T Jones, 24518, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE honest and sincere with whom I can share my thoughts and ambitions and this big heart that needs to give as well as receive. David Miles, 27173, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.

GBM, 28, 5'11", brown eyes, would like to establish a relationship with another gay male. I have many interests I would like to share. Please write to Leon Goolsby, 151-622, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699-0001.

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FRIENDS

• INTERNATIONAL •

FEMALE, 35, WOULD LIKE TO correspond with Canadians. My main hobbies are writing and stamp collecting. Please write to Letty Atchina Orola, Villa Esperanza Tangrit, Bacolod City, Philippines.

FRIENDS

FEMALE

• INTERNATIONAL •

GAY WOMAN WANTED by gay man to share expenses on trips to the sun and elsewhere. Object: to avoid high single supplement charges. Drawer G119.

• NATIONAL •

SERIOUSLY INTERESTED!

GOOD-LOOKING GBM, US citizen, wishes to marry Canadian. Mutually-beneficial arrangement. Can we talk about it? Drawer G225.

• TORONTO •

WANTED: GAY WOMAN

WHO LIKES MALE transvestites. We can get together for late evening meetings in my apartment or yours. You be the guy. I'll be the girl. You can dominate but no sex unless mutually agreed on. Discretion necessary. Telephone, address, photo please. Drawer G172.

LESBIAN, VERY SHY and quiet, seeks other lesbians for friendship only. Varied interests ranging from the relaxing to the adventurous (skydiving, anyone?) I love outdoor activities. If you believe in friendships built on solid foundations, reply to Drawer G211.

YOUNG, ATTRACTIVE, DOMINEERING male/TV seeks gay female/s, masculine or feminine, to assist me with submissives. No male calls. 752-4743.

NEW TO TORONTO

HI. I'VE GOT a new job, new friends and a new place to live, but no woman to share it all with. I love to read (feminist stuff), laugh, share quiet moments, watch people, and cuddle. Being openly gay, as I am, is very important to me. Can you possibly help me feel welcome in this strange new city? Please write to me, and a photo would be nice although not necessary. Drawer G222.

• NOVA SCOTIA •

LOVE, LUST AND LAUGHS, to exchange for same. I'm 25, professional, and a decent Valley lesbian who wants to share life's adventures with another sensitive, sincere woman. Confidentiality assured. Drawer G198.

FRIENDS

MALE

• INTERNATIONAL •

STRATFORD GWM SEEKING tennis/cycling partner and pen friends, professional, 5' 8 1/2" 148 lbs, 40's, sincere, honest, good-looking, seeking same from 18 to 45 yrs to share whirlpool, park trails, stereo and dinners with, also international traveller. Reply Box 432, Stratford ON N5A 6T3.

MALE, 21, SEEKS INTELLIGENT, FUN, easygoing flatmate in London — 1/1/87 to 6/1/87. Also European correspondents. Mike Friedman, 710 South State, Champaign IL 61820-5115.

• CANADA •

WRITER RESEARCHING "BARE BOTTOM" discipline in Canadian institutions. Reciprocal guaranteed for "first hand" accounts. JD, 537 Jones, #3905, San Francisco CA 94102.

• BRITISH COLUMBIA •

STRONG, LOVING COUNTRY MAN

40, 6'2", BLOND/BLUE. I seek a companion to celebrate life together on the unfolding path of the spirit. Age, looks not important. If this strikes a chord, please write. Drawer G186.

• VANCOUVER •

SHOW ME VANCOUVER!

NICE—LOOKING YOUTHFUL EXECUTIVE, 43, wants a "guide" to show me Vancouver in early October. Are you exceptionally good-looking with defined body? Letter, photo to: Drawer G190.

• EDMONTON • • THUNDER BAY •

NEW IN TOWN

GAY PROFESSIONAL 40, 5'10" 155 lbs, mustachioed, wide range of interests; always looking for new adventures. Phone anytime, 482-4634.

• CALGARY •

GWM, 40, INTELLIGENT and responsible, seeks ass-oriented men for mutual, safe, long, steamy ass play sessions with enemas, toys, condoms, etc. Give and take. Complete discretion. All replies answered. Drawer G192.

GWM MID-20s, looking for same, any race, any colour to share good times. Have varied interests. Photo appreciated. All letters answered. Drawer G230.

• SOUTHERN ONTARIO •

AFFECTIONATE GM, 24, SINCERE, brunette, blue eyes, husky. Handicapped but healthy and independent. Enjoy bars, video, dancing, Royal Family, birds. Seek friends, possible partners, 20-30. Photo please. Drawer G228.

LONDON GWM, 5'7", 37, beard, stable and secure, seeks friends who like quiet times and sharing. Drawer G218.

GWM LOOKING FOR down-to-earth male to share executive style home, leading to possible permanent relationship. K-W, Cambridge area. Drawer G231.

• LONDON •

WHY SPEND THE COLD autumn nights alone? Denim/leather teddy bear who likes long walks, coffee and donuts at Tim Horton's, movies, reading, dancing, good food and antiques seeks similar guy over 25. Photo appreciated. Drawer G199.

• HAMILTON •

FUN-LOVING AND ADVENTUROUS

GWM, 24, 5'11" who enjoys giving and receiving massages, human anatomy, music, film, theatre and the outdoors, is looking for non-smoking gay male, 24-35, with similar interests for friendship and possible relationship. Photo and phone appreciated. Drawer G217.

BIKING BUDDY

WANTED BY HAMILTON AREA GWM, should possess 600cc MC. I am the outdoors type, in early 30's, and seek same who is straight-acting, fit and into MCs. Reply to Box 1241, Stn A, Hamilton ON L8N 4B4.

• OTTAWA •

GWM, TALL, SLIM, mid-30's, seeks men 35 and over into raunchy, safe sex. Include interesting letter, phone and photo. Drawer G189.

YOUTHFUL-LOOKING GUY

37, 5'5" 115 lbs, seeks attractive buddy to 38 in Ottawa for friendship and, if compatible, intimate relationship with safe sex. Am professional in the fine arts, into classical music, theatre, films, stimulating conversation, and a little cycling and fitness, etc. Please be yourself: masculine and mature, able to laugh, wanting to share yourself with another. Photo required with letter to Drawer G197.

HOT TIMES NEEDED

SUBMISSIVE MALE, 33, 5'11" 170 lbs, needs dominant, imaginative man to explore bondage, TT, C&BT, wax, enemas, dildoes, shaving, recycled beer and/or? Please write and tell me your plans. Drawer G220.

LOVERS

MALE COUPLE, PROFESSIONALS, 30s, seeks same for friendship only. Box 3068 Stn D, Ottawa ON K1P 6H6.

• MONTREAL •

MOVING TO MONTREAL! Young 40-year-old guy from Chicago wants contacts and friends from Montreal. Let's correspond and meet. Have varied interests. Tim Fennell, 2A-7750 Deer Drive, Woodridge IL 60517. I read French but need help speaking it.

• HALIFAX •

GOOD-LOOKING GWM, 5'9", slim, 30, career-guy looking for hard, well-hung part-time lover for great safe sex and regular quality time. Discretion assured for students, Forces guys or mr rite macho man to 35! Drawer G155.

• MARITIMES •

PEI—CHARLOTTETOWN

GWM, 29, would like to meet other gay men in PEI-Maritimes for companionship, possible relationship. I am slim, dark hair, have a good sense of humour and lead a "straight" lifestyle. I am not looking for a "fuck-buddy". So serious replies only please. Drawer G185.

• NOVA SCOTIA •

BLOND, GM, 30, 6' always horny for thick dick. Well-equipped myself. Love to service tough daddy or young jock. Drawer G135.

ATTRACTIVE GWM MID-30s looking for masculine guys for friendship. Possibly J/O safe sex photo and phone appreciated. Drawer G163.

CAPE BRETON GWM, 40's, sincere, masculine, 5'7" 150lbs, versatile, enjoy travel, movies, french, greek or just good times together. Any age. Drawer G194.

SAFE SEX CAN BE FUN!

YARMOUTH AREA GWM would like to meet sincere guys of any age. I am 31, educated, friendly and definitely not into kinky sex. Please send phone number and we'll meet at my place. Drawer G182.

This month's Hot Pics are from a new book of photographs by the German Baron von Gloeden (1850-1931), who dedicated his life to photographing the men and boys of Taormina, Sicily. While much of the Baron's work was destroyed by Mussolini's fascists, these images were discovered several years ago in the personal effects of a Catholic priest. The book is available from Twelvetrees Press Order Dept, Box 188, Pasadena, CA 91102. \$50 postpaid.

CALGARY AREA

MASTER, 50, WANTS very submissive straight-looking slave to 40's for periodic sessions, B/D, spanking, whipping, humiliation, mild S/M. No drugs. Drawer G193.

LONDON—U.W.O.

"STRAIGHT" GWM, QUITE ATTRACTIVE, 26, tall, slim, muscular, established professional, non-smoker, wants to meet similar intelligent, mature, good-looking man, student or working, 21-35, local. Clean, healthy lifestyle a must. Goal: friendship. Honest, sincere replies get their photos returned. Write to find out more about one another! Take a chance, I am right now. Drawer G183.

UN HOMME, S.V.P.

CANADIAN FRANÇAIS DE 26 ans elevant son jeune fils. Voudrais-tu nous accompagner dans cette vie—écrit—moi donc. C.P. 1923, Kingston ON.

KNOT'N TO DO CUFF TIE CHAIN'T MET U.

ATTRACTIVE, 5'4", 24-YEAR-OLD seeks intelligent, together companion, into imaginative B/D, TT, spanking, etc. Preferably muscular, health conscious, articulate, romantic. London area. Send descriptive letter/phone number. Drawer G195.

• WINNIPEG •

LONELY

MALE 37 5'11" NEEDS LOVING

EMOTIONALLY AND FINANCIALLY secure, presentable, sincere, honest, cuddly type, with good sense of humour, wants someone special and equal to share life, enjoy finer things in life, not into bar scene or one night stands, monogamous relationship priority. Must be 27-40. Photo appreciated but not necessary. Phone number gets reply, don't hesitate. Drawer G136.

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• NEW BRUNSWICK • ENIGMA

BLACK HAIR AND EYES, 34 or older, brown or tanned. Sagittarius, excellent health, no drugs, serious only. I am GWM, 34, 5'6" 142 lbs, healthy, monogamy desired. Drawer G205.

• TORONTO •

GBM WILL MOUTHE uncut Latinos and Orientals. No reciprocation necessary. Have good technique. Must have own place to meet. Drawer G26.

GWM, 25, 5'8" blond, blue Christian conservative and stable, educated, health conscious blessed with great sense of humour. Seeks male (25-35) who's interested in developing a relationship that's special. Drawer G133.

GWM, 24, DISABLED, 5'6" 92 lbs, brown hair, grey eyes, interests: music, theatre, dining, quiet evenings. Don't drink, drugs. Seeks male 21-30 for friendship. Photo phone. Drawer G149.

NEW TO TORONTO

GWM, 29, 5'11" 180 lbs, brown hair grey eyes seeks 20-32 dominant male to help explore my submissive nature. Drawer G147.

FIT, MASCULINE, GOOD LOOKING, professional Oriental male 35, seeks non-smoker friends (hunks and/or yuppies!) to age 40. Be good to yourself and me; write soon! Drawer G143.

GWM, 26, 5'8" 120 lbs, looking for smooth, young, muscular, submissive partner who appreciates receiving oral and tactile worship. Toronto—Hamilton area. Photo appreciated, will return on request. Drawer G161.

TRUCKER WANTS YOU!

RIDES THE ROADS, needs horny action weekends. You're 21-39, deep throat, tight ass, good build, into leather, boots, some S/M, looking for safe hot action with attractive assertive GWM, 36, 5'10" 165 lbs. Send interests, phone number, photo if available (returnable) today to Box 1150, Station F, Toronto ON M4Y 2T4.

WOULD LIKE TO meet Oriental 30-35 for caring, sincere friendship who does not smoke and enjoys classical music. I'm 43, discreet, of Christian background, average build, fair complexion. Not interested in bars or drugs and like cycling, cars and a quiet easy-going lifestyle. Please include phone number. Serious replies only. Drawer G152.

M, 25, 5'9," good-looking, good body seeks permanent relationship with male 25-35 who is sadistic into B/D. some pain, leather, boots, uniforms, etc. Must be good looking, have good body/moustache, sense of humour, stamina, intelligence. Prefer non-smoker, technically minded educated individual. Drawer G117.

FUN SEX

AM A HOT GUY, 5'11" 145 lbs, 29, handsome. Seeks a guy to meet for kinky, hot sex/friendship. No commitments, just great fun. Photo gets mine. Drawer G184.

VERY ATTRACTIVE GWM, 32, seeks slim, hot black or Oriental male to 32. Photo, phone to Box 5438, Stn A, Toronto ON MSW 1N6.

HOT MAN, 40, 5'8" 150 lbs, clean shaven, uncut, seeks lover, must be 25-45. Slim, handsome, horny, well-hung, fun and professional. Drawer G187.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL, ATTRACTIVE, fun-loving, and serious who appreciates city life, country roads, mother nature, and Mozart. Would love to meet independent, self-aware, honest, masculine 30-35-year-old, who is considering a serious relationship and a good bottle of wine. Drawer G188.

GOOD-LOOKING GWM FROM MTL 32

VISTING TORONTO OFTEN. Looking to make new friends and possible place to stay while there. I'd make enjoyable companion. Looking for easygoing open people. Write with photo to Richard Roberts, 1330 Berthier Montreal QC H2L 1N3.

GWM, 28, INTELLIGENT, SINCERE, attractive, affectionate, G/A seeks romantic, monogamous, long-term relationship with G/P cuddler (to 40) who shares similar qualities. Let's go to a movie, dinner, long walks, swimming, or just stay in. I'm into the arts. Not into the bars or the games. Let's meet! Discretion assured. Box 414, Adelaide St PO, Toronto ON M5C 2J5.

GWM, 36, 6' 160 lbs, blond, built searching for guys with smooth, hard pecs who enjoy them being worshipped in exchange for a hot, large tool to work on. Let me work on those big pecs all night. I'm discreet and very healthy. Phone number and photo required for hot pleasure. Drawer G191.

NARCISSISTIC AND EGOTISTICAL

DEFINED STUD, ANY AGE, etc, demanding god-like body worship with deep throat service, sought by attractive blond, thirties, exercised. 5x11. G-string, clothing, fantasies, oil, stimulants, etc, OK. No reciprocation required. Self-praise macho letter, photo receives immediate worshipping response. Drawer G196.

GWM, 25, 6'2" 145 lbs, slim, brown hair/moustache, non-smoking, romantic, Sondheim fan, classical music, theatre, seeks friend/relationship with shorter GWM to 30 with similar interests, prefer blond, moustache, stocky build. Photo/phone. Drawer G201.

GOOD—LOOKING GWM, 40, 170 lbs, 5'10", dark hair, blue eyes, moustache, enjoys music, movies, quiet times, long walks, homelife, seeks male (race no barrier) 32+ who values sensitivity, trust, honesty, stability, companionship and is looking for a monogamous relationship. Serious only need reply with phone number to Drawer G202.

A CUTE JEWISH GUY, 26, professional and fit, new to Toronto. Looking for a friend, would accept uncut as well. Please reply with photo, with or without family jewels. Thanks, Drawer G203.

AFFAIR WANTED. GWM bored seeks discreet occasional safe sex as spice to marriage. OK looks, height, endowment. Professional, balding, 45. Photo (returnable) phone to Box 554, Stn T, Toronto ON M6B 4C2. Serious replies only.

GWM, 21, VIRGIN, 165 lbs. Overweight, plain-looking wants caring person who can be teacher. Write Box 227, 3148 Kingston Rd. Suite 209, Scarborough ON M1M 2P4.

TORONTO BIKERS

TORONTO TO LONDON. Are you tall, very good-looking muscular build, 21-30? Do you like wearing tight levis and leather gear? Would you like to give some head or just a good fuck to an attractive, submissive GWM in a health-conscious, safe sex scene. Reciprocity not necessary. However if you were to rub my crotch sore with your heavy boot, that would be nice. Does the idea turn you on? Then turn me on with your photo(s) and letter. Discretion assured. Your place. Also hot cops, leathermen, engineers, construction type, etc. Write Drawer G215.

MASTER SEEKS SUBMISSIVES either sex considered. Into B/D, S/M, T/T, F/F, toys, strapping, spanking. Limits respected. Detailed reply with phone. Drawer G214.

FRIENDSHIP, AFFECTION, AND a sense of humour wanted by this well-rounded (in body and in interests), quiet, intelligent, 48-year-old (looks 47 1/2), 6' 210 lbs, hirsute, honest, professional, gentle man. You prefer cuddling to raunch, sharing interests, home life, exploring the city and laying your head on my hairy chest. Be daring and write. Drawer G213.

NEEDS TO BE TRAINED

SUBMISSIVE, MALE, 5'11", 195 lbs, 38, fit seeks dominant man who will enjoy using me as he wishes. Experienced in B/D, humiliation, spanking and golden showers. Enjoy groups. Age and looks unimportant. Drawer G212.

WANT TO PLAY WITH MY BALLS?

AFFECTIONATE, CONSERVATIVE CHINESE MALE, 25, loves tennis, movies, dancing, kissing, cuddling, desires GWM 20-32 (blondes preferred) to share same interests. Seeks new friends for new adventures. Photo, phone and nice long letter appreciated. Drawer G210.

ARE YOU SEEMINGLY ATYPICAL?

GWM, 24, 6'3" 195 lbs, handsome, straight-seeming. I'm a responsible professional who enjoys friends and family, tennis, swimming, dining out, movies, long walks, all music (especially jazz, classical and R&B). My gayness is only one small facet of my personality and has not become the dominant characteristic of my existence. There must be others like me out there. Let's meet. Drawer G205.

I WANT A MAN. Know what I mean? There seem to be many men out there who spark something in me, and with whom I fantasize, at least, that a good relationship could happen. How to meet such a man, to check it out... Say that you want, ask like-minded to get in touch, and meet them. If the spark is there, great. If not, maybe next time lucky. So here I am, I'm saying it. Now how about you? Drawer G206.

RESCUE ME

GWM, 26, SEEKS EXTRAORDINARY young man to rescue me from yet another ordinary night out at the bars. I like movies, bright conversation, offbeat humour, city life; I want to combine these with candlelight, romance and you. Let's meet for a drink and see how it goes! Drawer G207.

GWM, HOT MUSCULAR BODY, blond, blue eyes, moustache, 5'7" 145 lbs, hung, youthful 34. Passive, like to have things done to me. We'll decide what. You: firm muscular body, 21-35, like to take charge. Safe sex only. Descriptive letter and photo guarantees reply. Drawer G208.

J/O TO UNCURT MEAT OR VIDEO

TIGHT-BODIED 27-year-old gets off on long uncut schlongs and straight video. Explicit performance planned for horny owner of either, who can entertain. 487-5588. No phone sex!

LOVE CLASSICAL MUSIC? Moustaches? Then let's meet. I'm a professional, 38, 5'10", hairy, moustached, an amateur musician, seeking someone similar for friendship, possibly a relationship. Photo not essential but a moustache is! Muscles a plus. Please write to Drawer G219.

FEET/DOMINATION

DOMINANT, YOUNG MALE/TV, seeks young, slim submissives, students, who enjoy smelling feet, and facesitting combined with mild bondage. 752-4743.

SCARBORO COLLEGE STUDENT

FOR FUN TIMES and possible roommate to share my apartment near campus. Reduced rent for right guy. You're healthy, horny, slim, GWM, to age 25. I'm 34, 6' 155 lbs, professional, healthy, attractive, sincere, caring. Drawer G221.

SLIPPERS AND FEET

LITTLE BOY who wants daddy's hot leather slippers or daddy with slippers. Write to Box 683, Stn C, Toronto ON M6J 3S1.

YOU ARE LITHE, slender, fit, like to be ordered around by a tall, attractive, well-built, hung, horny, active top. I need a clean, healthy, passive 'boy' for regular hot sessions. 50 mile radius of Toronto OK. Photo if possible. Drawer G223.

GWM CUTE, BEARDED, 24, SLIM, 5'8". Fashion industry professional. Witty, masculine. Seeks: attractive, masculine man who is: open-minded, easy-going and sincere. Between 25-35. Photo appreciated. Drawer G224.

WM, LATIN, LATE FORTIES, divorced, slender, very clean, top and bottom, seeks very clean, well-endowed, uncut straight male 21-33 who needs to be sucked regularly — no versatiles, phonies, please, as I don't wish or expect reciprocation. Phone after 6pm. 461-4608, Toronto.

AFFECTIONATE, BRIGHT, PROFESSIONAL MAN, 38, attractive, personable, stable, involved in arts seeks similar male for mutually supportive monogamous relationship. Sense of humour a must, integrity, someone who enjoys life even more with the right companion. I'm open and fun, not involved in gay scene but comfortable with sexuality. Can we talk? Drawer G229.

GWM 2SOME SEEKS singles or other 2somes for sizzling action. Drawer G120.

HEALTHY GWM, SEEKING SOLID, monogamous relationship with a man who, like me, values sincerity, sensitivity, humour and warmth. I enjoy my friends, career, travel, hiking, biking, running, reading, conversation, etc. I'm 32, 5'8" 130 lbs, dark hair and beard. Phone number appreciated. Drawer G233.

WHY DO IT ALONE? Are there any men between 25 and 40 interested in sharing mutually stimulating situations, J/O and oral fantasies, hot group sessions and phone talk. If so, please reply with descriptive letter and phone number. Drawer G232.

CONDOM TIPS

- Practice while jerking off, before you use them in sexual encounters
- Don't give up after one try. It takes a while to get used to them
- Squeeze the air out of the tip when you start putting it on
- Only buy condoms made of latex (lambskin membrane condoms break more easily)
- Use lots of lubricant, but only use water-soluble lube (like K-Y, Lubafax or Muco). Don't use Crisco, Vaseline or other oil-based products — they damage latex rubbers
- To avoid leakage, pull out soon after ejaculating (grabbing the cock and condom)
- If you want to be absolutely safe, pull out before ejaculating

For more information about safer sex, call the AIDS Committee of Toronto: 926-1626, or write to ACT, Box 55, Station F, Toronto M4Y 2L4

Condom Tips courtesy of the AIDS Committee of Toronto

GENERAL AND AFFECTIONATE

GWM, 43, REQUIRES VERY muscular, smooth-bodied submissive body builder for light B/D fantasies. No S/M. Photo and phone to Drawer G86.

RENAISSANCE MAN WANTED

ATTRACTIVE MALE 35 YRS. 6' 170 lbs, brown hair, moustache, blue eyes, seeks companion to enjoy life with. Someone who knows how to balance life between seriousness and fun. I have eclectic tastes: summer drives in the country, opera, Wonderland, Island, classical music, French, classical Chinese, Brythonic Celtic, astronomy, etc. Write me with photo and let's explore possibilities. Drawer G153.

IVY LEAGUE MALE available. What matters to me is that the chemistry between us is right — any differences from there we can work out together. I am educated, stable, attractive, masculine, gentle; a happy, healthy 42; open, honest, incredibly monogamous and truly enjoy being alive. If you have reached the stage where you sincerely want a solid, long-term relationship, please write and tell me about yourself. I will reply. Tom, Box 100-483, 2 Bloor St W, Toronto ON M4W 3E2.

SOCKS AND FEET

GWM, 33, MASCULINE, GOOD LOOKING, attracted to your feet and well-worn socks. Looking for like-minded or will indulge your fetish or special interest. Drawer G177.

COMING TO TERMS

Closing the gaps and charting new frontiers of family life

by Corrie Campbell

A lot of people have compared my father to Archie Bunker. I suppose there's some truth in that, though he's much more generous. Dad works in a pulp mill in the small town in rural BC where I grew up. As far as I can tell, most of the people he works with think pretty much as he does.

I came out to him over the phone last fall. He had been asking my sister why I had never had a boyfriend. I decided the time was right to tell him that I'm a lesbian. He said he had pretty much figured it out. I told him he could ask me any questions he wanted to. He said he would rather take a tranquilizer, and that he would call me next week.

This spring I announced to him that my lover, Sandy, and I were going to be living together. He said he didn't think it was a very good idea. In

fact, he thought it such a poor idea that it took phone calls to my sister, to my aunt, and to two of his friends before he could adjust to it.

Dad had been planning a trip to visit me here in Toronto for over a year. Now he wasn't so sure he wanted to come. He said he had had a few unexpected expenses and that his money was a bit low. I felt his reluctance to come had more to do with apprehensions about Sandy than with lack of funds. I talked him into coming by saying how disappointed I would be if he didn't.

He arrived a few weeks ago on a Sunday morning. I think he was nervous about meeting Sandy. It took him ten minutes of suitcase-adjusting in the living room before he went into the kitchen to say hello to her. Much to my relief, they seemed to get along with each other.

That night Dad treated Sandy and me to sup-

per at the Top of Toronto Restaurant in the CN tower. He had told all of his buddies at work that he was going there for his fiftieth birthday dinner. It was a nice first meal together.

When we got back to the apartment, Dad and I sat up and discussed my new lifestyle. He seemed to be in favour of Sandy and me. He figured we must have a wholesome relationship after all, because we study together and go for long walks. He said he couldn't understand why people would harass us for being gay when we were only being happy together.

Funny. I think every reason that's been given for discrimination against gay men and lesbians is a belief my father holds dear to his heart.

One of the first things he asked me was why I flaunted my sexuality. I asked him what he meant. He said "Well you've got all those books

about gay sex right there in the dining room, where anyone can see them." Actually, the books deal with gay politics and history. He, like many of the people I've talked to, reduces the notion of sexual orientation to that of genital contact, and assumed a book such as *Lesbian Studies* would be concerned with just that. I tried to convince him otherwise, but if I made a dent in his thinking it was only slight.

Dad then pointed out to me that he and my mother never discussed their sex life with anyone. Therefore, I was being overly personal if I told people that I see Sandy as my spouse. I told him this surprised me. I hadn't realized he had passed Mom off as "just a good friend" for all those years.

Dad's next concern was that Sandy and I might try holding hands when we were out with him. He said "You know what will happen. People will see you and think 'there's a couple of queers, shoot them.'" I'm still not sure if he was concerned for our safety, or worried that we might run into someone he knows.

Then he informed me that the important thing about a lesbian relationship is that both the people involved are women. That is, butch and femme roles are out. My guess is he got this from reading a copy of *Lesbian/Woman* that I had left in my old bedroom.

I was very impressed that Dad had made the effort to try and understand me by doing some reading. His conclusion was the amusing part. He decided that since we were real women after all, we should shave our legs. Apparently their condition had been bothering him ever since he had seen us in our shorts.

Over the time my father stayed with us he brought up most of the stereotypes and myths about gay people that we all love to hate. At best I can say that our conversations were frustrating.

For the most part, though, I think he does well. I have to remember that people's achievements must be judged in the light of their experience and abilities.

My father lives and works in an environment where comments such as "Who would have figured Rock Hudson for a queer" are the accepted norm. You couldn't put two people together who wouldn't say that gays are nothing but a bunch of child-molesting perverts. It's not the way things should be. It's the way things are.

All of the people with whom I discussed coming out to Dad agreed that he wouldn't speak to me for a year after I had told him. I'm glad they were wrong.

My father came from small-town BC to visit his daughter and her lover. He treated us as newly-weds. I know that, for him, it took a lot of effort. Considering all his prejudices about gay people, it impresses me; I'm proud of him.



Illustration: B. Jameson

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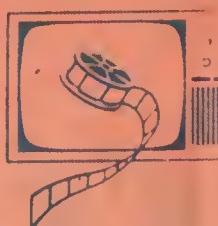


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